MARVEL COMICS
SPECIAL
DOUBLE-SIZED
ISSUE!
MAY
#375
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
TRIAL AND TERROR!
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MAY #375

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DAREDEVIL

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR

TRIAL AND TERROR!

KELLY
NORD
OLIVETTI
DENHAM
LYLE
LEON
LEONARDI
LIPKA
BRITO
CARLSON
JONES
HANNA

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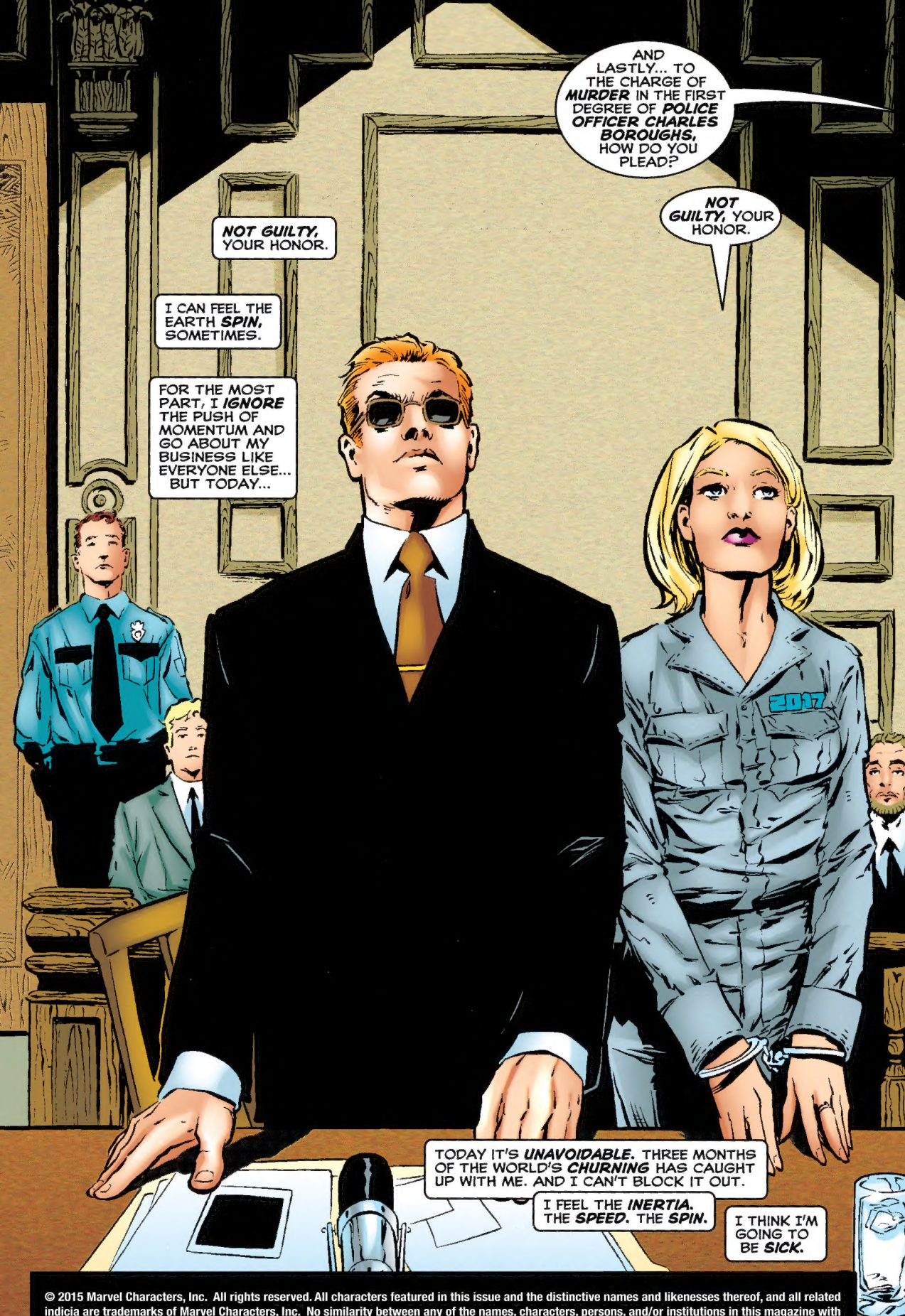

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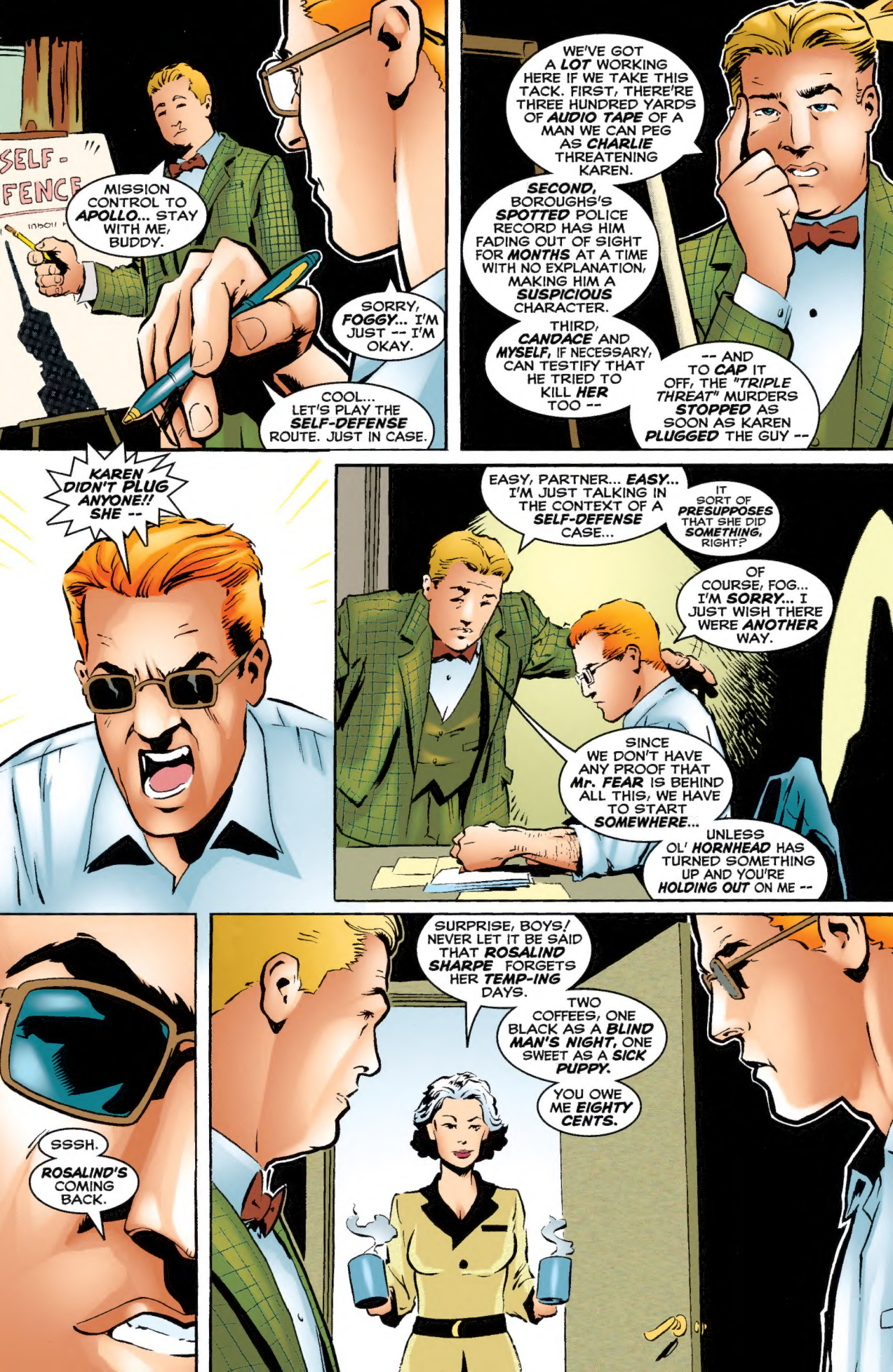
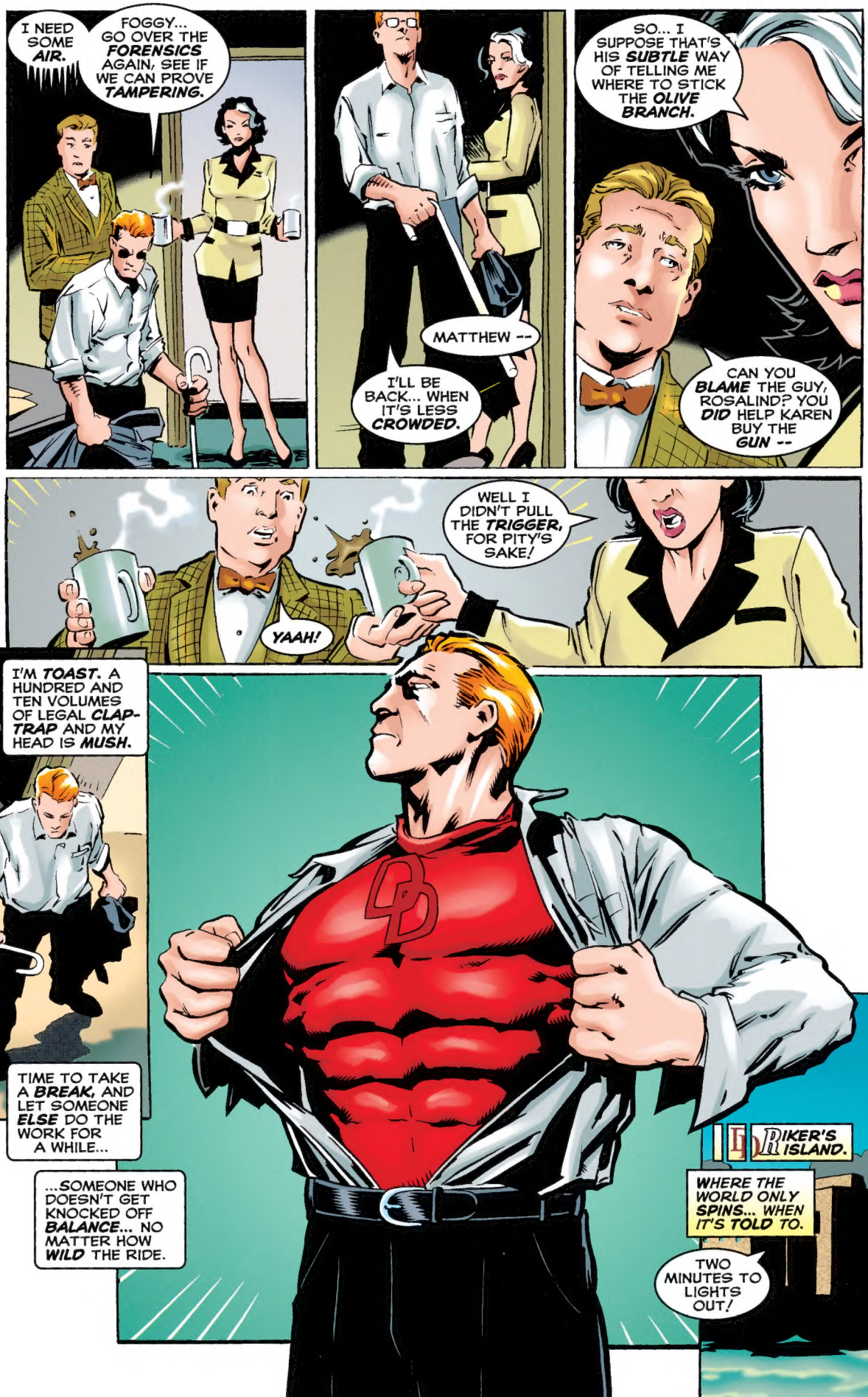
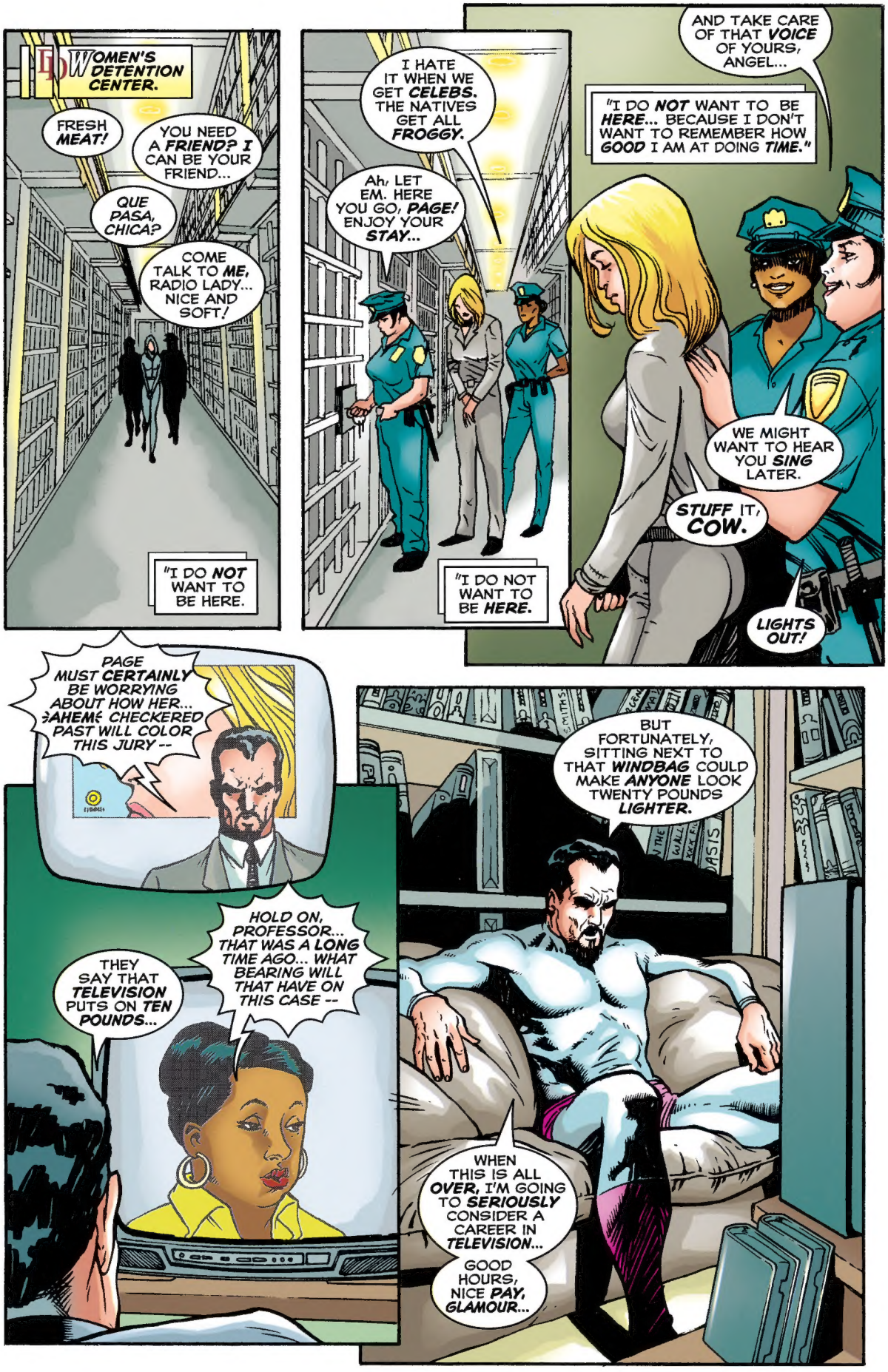
NEW YORK CITY. THE CIRCUS IS IN TOWN.
I HAVE UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM THE MAYOR AND THE GOVERNOR TO PROSECUTE THIS CASE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.
IF AN OFFICER IS GUNNED DOWN IN COLD BLOOD ON MY WATCH -- SOMEONE'S GOING TO PAY!
KAREN PAGE'S CELEBRITY STATUS WILL BUY HER NO LENIENCY IN THIS COURTROOM.
Mr. MURDOCK, DO YOU THINK IT'S WISE TO DEFEND A WOMAN WITH WHOM YOU'RE ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED --?
NO COMMENT.
COME ON, PAUL... LEAVE THE MUD-SLINGING TO THE PIGS, DEAR.
WE ALL KNOW WHAT SORT OF AN "ACTRESS" Ms. PAGE IS... I WON'T EVEN COMMENT ON HER ALLEGED "STALKER" --
AT BEST, SHE IS A MISGUIDED VIGILANTE WHO MADE A FATAL MISTAKE... AT WORST, A PSYCHOTIC KILLER.
EITHER WAY, SHE'LL GET HER DUE!
COME ON, PAL, Huh? I SAID NO COMMENT!
KAREN PAGE IS AN INNOCENT WOMAN. WE WILL CLEAR HER NAME.
MATT! IS KAREN BACK ON THE DRUGS? IS THIS MURDER A LINK BACK TO HER DAYS AS A PROST! --
WE'RE CONFIDENT THAT A CONVICTION IS FORTHCOMING... IT'S A SMOKING GUN CASE.
SAY THAT TO MY FACE, YOU SON OF A --
MATT! MATT!
"I'D LIKE TO START WITH A STEP BACK, FOLKS, AND REVIEW THE FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM... 'KAY?"

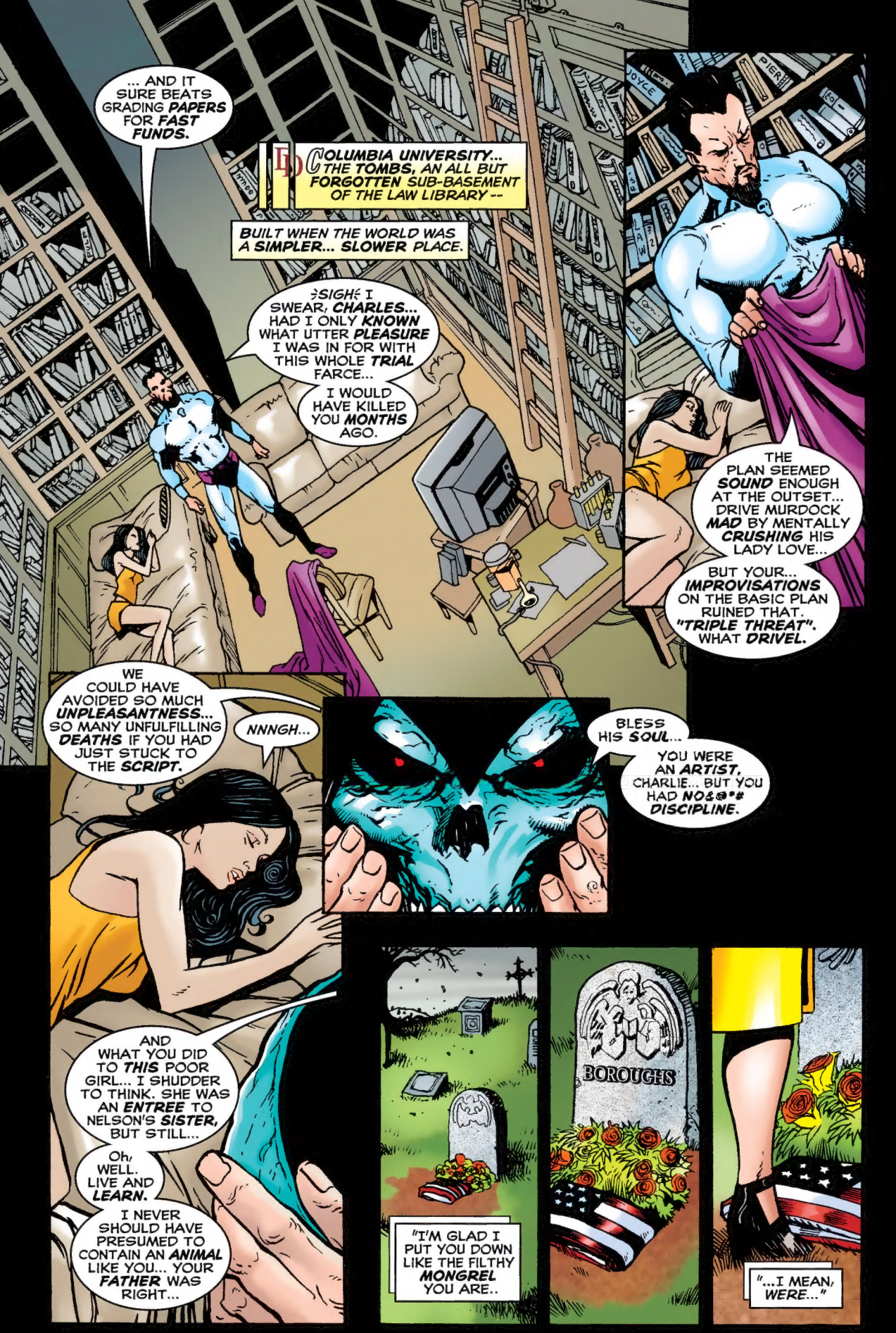
NFSK
"AT THIS POPULAR NEW YORK RADIO STATION, ON-AIR PERSONALITY KAREN PAGE ALLEGEDLY TOOK A MAN'S LIFE.
"HIGHLY DECORATED OFFICER CHARLES BOROUGHS WAS ASSIGNED TO PROTECT Ms. PAGE FROM A 'STALKER'...
"...A CHARACTER DUBBED THE "TRIPLE THREAT" KILLER. HE MURDERED NUMEROUS INDIVIDUALS IN GRUESOME TRIBUTE TO THE DJ DIVA.
"THE CITY IS HELD IN A GRIP OF FEAR, TUNING IN NIGHTLY TO HER SHOW AS THE "KILLER" TAUNTS AND TEASES PAGE. MORE BODIES.
"AUTHORITIES ARE STUMPED. SHE GETS ROUND THE CLOCK PROTECTION, BUT Ms. PAGE PURCHASES A GUN TO PROTECT HERSELF...
"AND APPARENTLY USES IT ON OFFICER BOROUGHS WITH FATAL RESULTS, CLAIMING THAT HE WAS THE 'TRIPLE THREAT.'
"NO EVIDENCE EXISTS TO SUPPORT HER CLAIMS... AND SUSPICIONS ARISE THAT PAGE MAY HAVE STAGED HER OWN "STALKING."
JOINING ME FOR COVERAGE OF THIS CASE IS PROFESSOR LAWRENCE CRANSTON FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LAW. PROFESSOR, YOUR IMPRESSIONS?
THANK YOU, Ms. STAR FIRST, MY CONDOLENCES TO Ms. PAGE'S LEGAL TEAM.
NOT ONLY MUST THEY PROVE REASONABLE DOUBT AGAINST A MOUNTAIN OF FORENSIC EVIDENCE... BUT THE EMOTIONAL NATURE OF THIS CASE IS CLEARLY TAKING ITS TOLL.
AS TODAY, WHEN MATT MURDOCK, CONSUMMATE PROFESSIONAL, ALMOST CAME TO BLOWS WITH A REPORTER ON THE STEPS OF CITY HALL!
WHILE THIS MAY MAKE FOR GOOD DRAMA... IT DOES NOT MAKE FOR GOOD LAW.
WHY DO YOU THINK HE'S SO EDGY, PROFESSOR?
FEAR, OF COURSE. MATT MURDOCK IS AFRAID.

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
Stan Lee PRESENTS
WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.
NO LEGAL BRIEF... NO OVERTURNED RULING WILL TELL ME HOW TO KEEP THE WORLD FROM SPINNING.
MATT?
I'M GOING TO SCREAM --
MATT, I'M READY FOR ANOTHER ONE... MATT!
BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
JOE KELLY
WRITER
CHRIS CLAREMONT
STORY ASSIST
CARY NORD & MARK LIPKA
ARIEL OLIVETTI & PIER BRITO
JOHN PAUL LEON
TOM LYLE & ROBERT JONES
BRIAN DENHAM & CHRIS CARLSON
RICK LEONARDI & SCOTT HANNA
ARTISTS
CHRISTIE SCHEELE & IAN LAUGHLIN COLORS
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT'S LIZ LETTERS
JAYE GARDNER
EDITOR
BOB HARRAS
EDITOR IN CHIEF


SELF-
FENCE
MISSION CONTROL TO APOLLO... STAY WITH ME, BUDDY.
SORRY, FOGGY... I'M JUST -- I'M OKAY.
COOL... LET'S PLAY THE SELF-DEFENSE ROUTE. JUST IN CASE.
WE'VE GOT A LOT WORKING HERE IF WE TAKE THIS TACK. FIRST, THERE'RE THREE HUNDRED YARDS OF AUDIO TAPE OF A MAN WE CAN PEG AS CHARLIE THREATENING KAREN.
SECOND, BOROUGHS'S SPOTTED POLICE RECORD HAS HIM FADING OUT OF SIGHT FOR MONTHS AT A TIME WITH NO EXPLANATION, MAKING HIM A SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER.
THIRD, CANDACE AND MYSELF, IF NECESSARY, CAN TESTIFY THAT HE TRIED TO KILL HER TOO --
-- AND TO CAP IT OFF, THE "TRIPLE THREAT" MURDERS STOPPED AS SOON AS KAREN PLUGGED THE GUY --
KAREN DIDN'T PLUG ANYONE!! SHE --
EASY, PARTNER... EASY... I'M JUST TALKING IN THE CONTEXT OF A SELF-DEFENSE CASE...
IT SORT OF PRESUPPOSES THAT SHE DID SOMETHING, RIGHT?
OF COURSE, FOG... I'M SORRY... I JUST WISH THERE WERE ANOTHER WAY.
SINCE WE DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF THAT Mr. FEAR IS BEHIND ALL THIS, WE HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE...
UNLESS OL' HORNHEAD HAS TURNED SOMETHING UP AND YOU'RE HOLDING OUT ON ME --
SSSH.
ROSALIND'S COMING BACK.
SURPRISE, BOYS! NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT ROSALIND SHARPE FORGETS HER TEMP-ING DAYS.
TWO COFFEES, ONE BLACK AS A BLIND MAN'S NIGHT, ONE SWEET AS A SICK PUPPY.
YOU OWE ME EIGHTY CENTS.

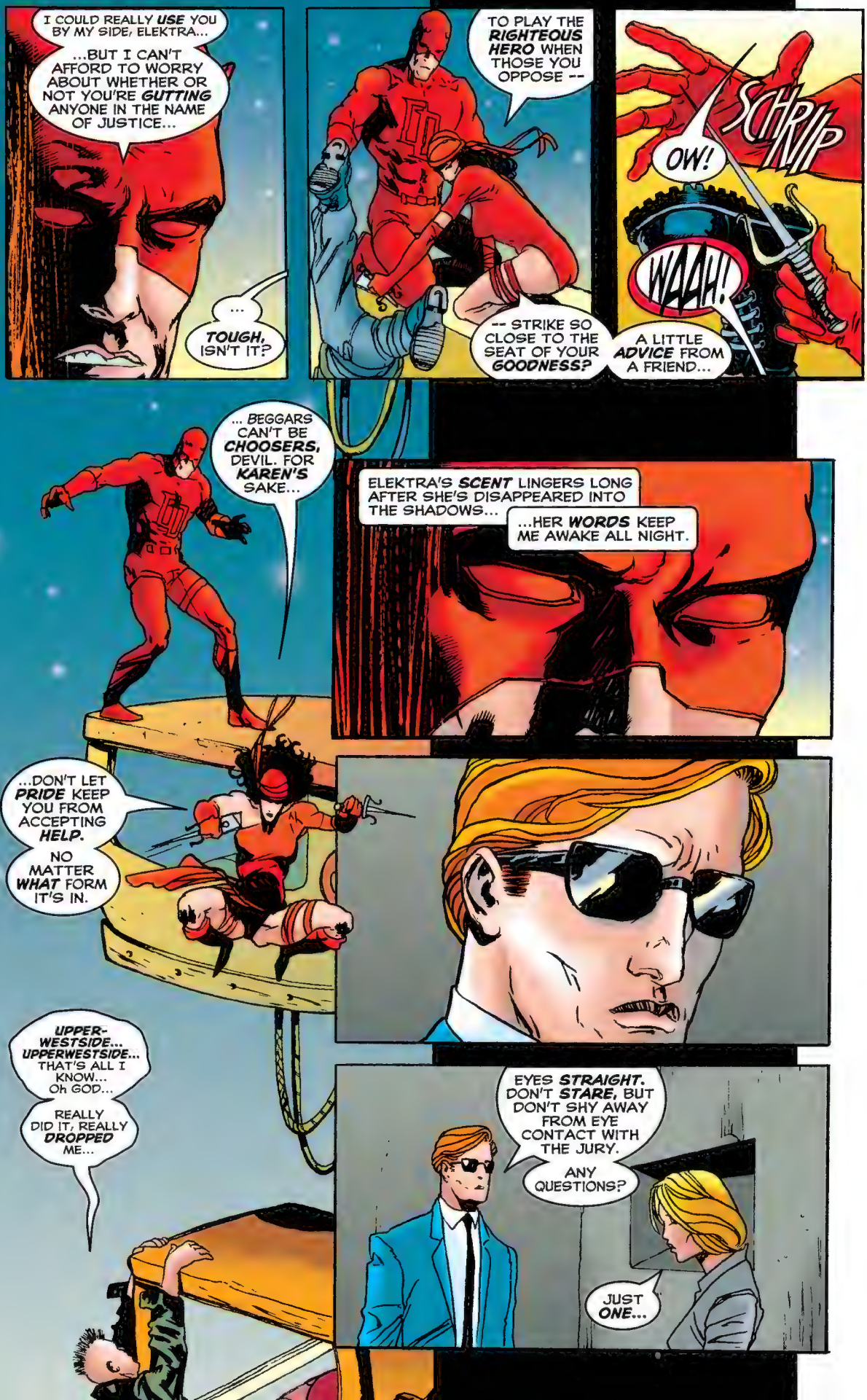

I NEED SOME AIR.
FOGGY... GO OVER THE FORENSICS AGAIN, SEE IF WE CAN PROVE TAMPERING.
MATTHEW --
I'LL BE BACK... WHEN IT'S LESS CROWDED.
SO... I SUPPOSE THAT'S HIS SUBTLE WAY OF TELLING ME WHERE TO STICK THE OLIVE BRANCH.
CAN YOU BLAME THE GUY, ROSALIND? YOU DID HELP KAREN BUY THE GUN --
YAAH!
WELL I DIDN'T PULL THE TRIGGER, FOR PITY'S SAKE!
I'M TOAST. A HUNDRED AND TEN VOLUMES OF LEGAL CLAP-TRAP AND MY HEAD IS MUSH.
TIME TO TAKE A BREAK, AND LET SOMEONE ELSE DO THE WORK FOR A WHILE...
...SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T GET KNOCKED OFF BALANCE... NO MATTER HOW WILD THE RIDE.
RIKER'S ISLAND.
WHERE THE WORLD ONLY SPINS... WHEN IT'S TOLD TO.
TWO MINUTES TO LIGHTS OUT!

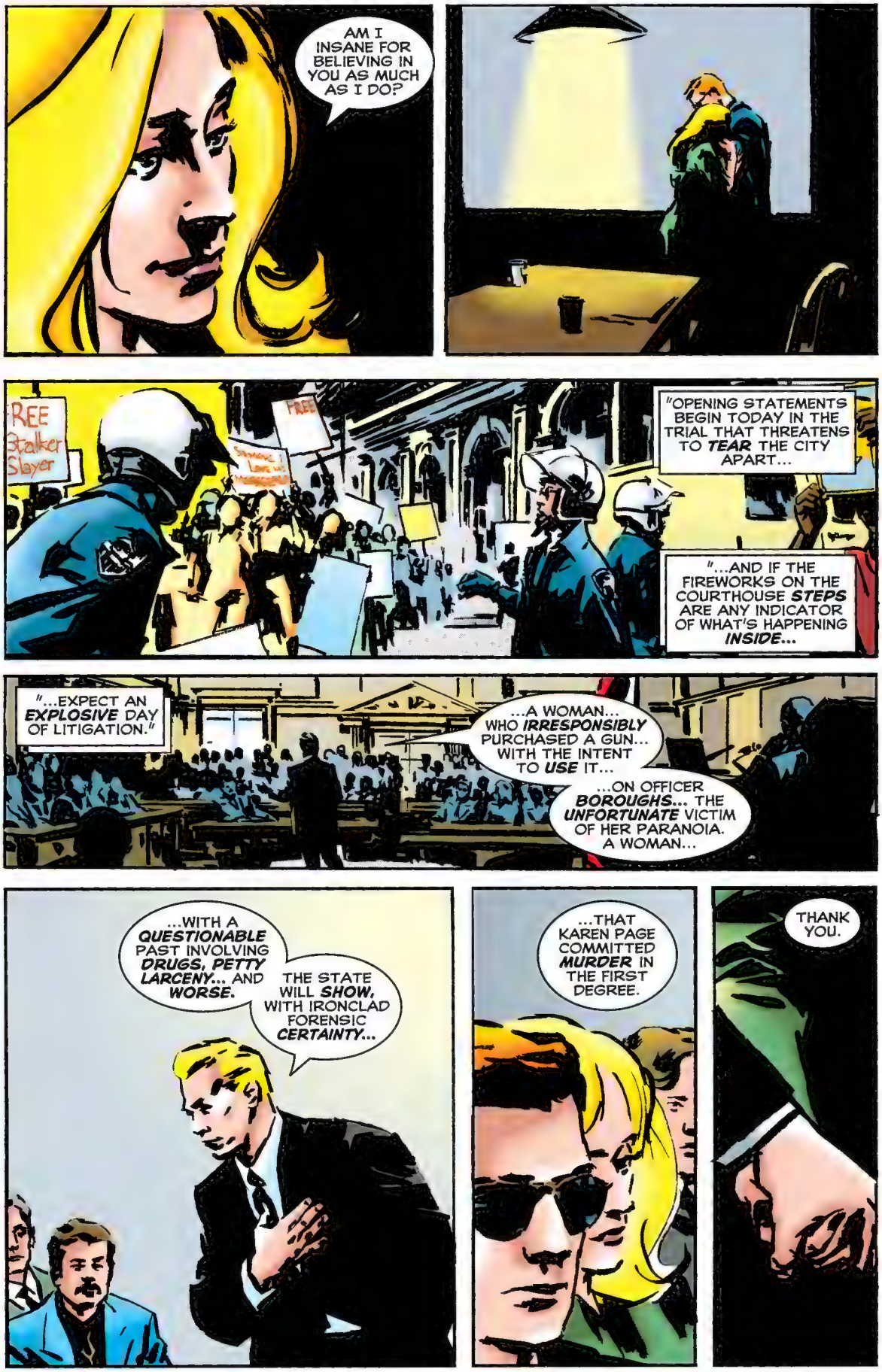

WOMEN'S DETENTION CENTER.
FRESH MEAT!
YOU NEED A FRIEND? I CAN BE YOUR FRIEND...
QUE PASA, CHICA?
COME TALK TO ME, RADIO LADY... NICE AND SOFT!
"I DO NOT WANT TO BE HERE.
I HATE IT WHEN WE GET CELEBS. THE NATIVES GET ALL FROGGY.
Ah, LET EM. HERE YOU GO, PAGE! ENJOY YOUR STAY...
"I DO NOT WANT TO BE HERE.
AND TAKE CARE OF THAT VOICE OF YOURS, ANGEL...
"I DO NOT WANT TO BE HERE... BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER HOW GOOD I AM AT DOING TIME."
WE MIGHT WANT TO HEAR YOU SING LATER.
STUFF IT, COW.
LIGHTS OUT!
PAGE MUST CERTAINLY BE WORRYING ABOUT HOW HER... AHEM! CHECKERED PAST WILL COLOR THIS JURY --
HOLD ON, PROFESSOR... THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO... WHAT BEARING WILL THAT HAVE ON THIS CASE --
THEY SAY THAT TELEVISION PUTS ON TEN POUNDS...
BUT FORTUNATELY, SITTING NEXT TO THAT WINDBAG COULD MAKE ANYONE LOOK TWENTY POUNDS LIGHTER.
WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, I'M GOING TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER A CAREER IN TELEVISION...
GOOD HOURS, NICE PAY, GLAMOUR...

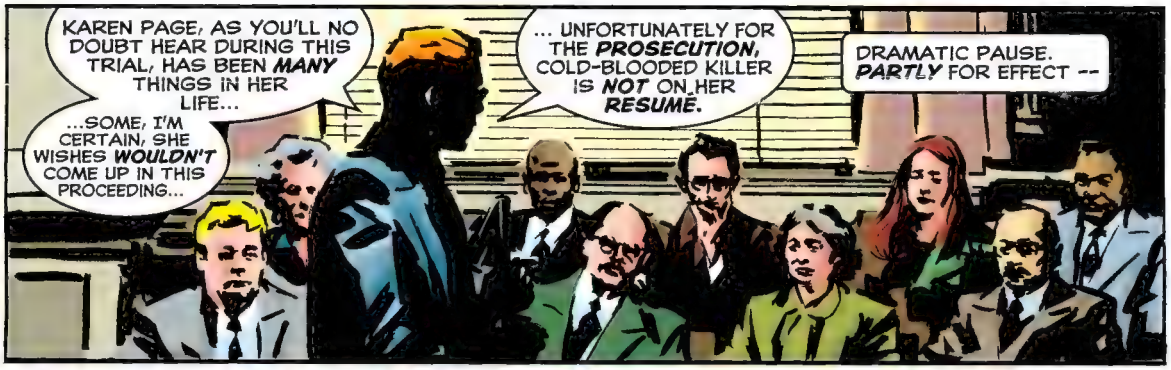

... AND IT SURE BEATS GRADING PAPERS FOR FAST FUNDS.
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY... THE TOMBS, AN ALL BUT FORGOTTEN SUB-BASEMENT OF THE LAW LIBRARY --
BUILT WHEN THE WORLD WAS A SIMPLER... SLOWER PLACE.
SIGH. I SWEAR, CHARLES... HAD I ONLY KNOWN WHAT UTTER PLEASURE I WAS IN FOR WITH THIS WHOLE TRIAL FARCE...
I WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU MONTHS AGO.
THE PLAN SEEMED SOUND ENOUGH AT THE OUTSET... DRIVE MURDOCK MAD BY MENTALLY CRUSHING HIS LADY LOVE...
BUT YOUR... IMPROVISATIONS ON THE BASIC PLAN RUINED THAT. "TRIPLE THREAT". WHAT DRIVEL.
WE COULD HAVE AVOIDED SO MUCH UNPLEASANTNESS... SO MANY UNFULFILLING DEATHS IF YOU HAD JUST STUCK TO THE SCRIPT.
NNNGH...
BLESS HIS SOUL...
YOU WERE AN ARTIST, CHARLIE... BUT YOU HAD NO&@*# DISCIPLINE.
AND WHAT YOU DID TO THIS POOR GIRL... I SHUDDER TO THINK. SHE WAS AN ENTREE TO NELSON'S SISTER, BUT STILL...
Oh, WELL. LIVE AND LEARN.
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE PRESUMED TO CONTAIN AN ANIMAL LIKE YOU... YOUR FATHER WAS RIGHT...
"I'M GLAD I PUT YOU DOWN LIKE THE FILTHY MONGREL YOU ARE..
BOROUGHS
"...I MEAN, WERE..."

SICK YET?
HUURP?
DON'T WORRY, STINKY... YOU STILL HAVE A FEW MORE REVOLUTIONS BEFORE GETTING REACQUAINTED WITH BREAKFAST.
G-GIVE IT UP, DAREDEVIL! I-I KNOW YOU GOT NUTHIN' --
I'M SORRY? I COULDN'T HEAR YOU OVER THE PANIC-INDUCED STUTTERING...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY AGAIN? I'M GETTING A CRAMP.
I AIN'T SEEN FEAR IN MONTHS! HE CUT ME LOOSE, EVERYONE KNOWS DAT!
SO IF YOU'RE BUSTIN' MY CHOPS, YOU MUST BE GETTIN' DESPERATE! BESIDES, I KNOW YOU AIN'T GONNA DROP ME!
OF COURSE NOT! I'D NEVER DO THAT, STINKY! WE'RE PALS! COMPADRES! THIS IS JUST A COUPLE GUYS HAVING SOME YUKKS AT CONEY ISLAND OFF SEASON...
OF COURSE, ON THE OTHER HAND... FEAR'S GOT ME IN A BAD MOOD, AND I NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE IT OUT ON.
I NOMINATE LOWLIFE NUMBER THREE WITH THE BAD B.O. AND THE WEIGHT PROBLEM.
BAH! A QUARTER FELL OUT OF MY POCKET -- GO CALL SOMEONE WHO GIVES A CRAP AND LET ME GO!
"SIGH YOU KNOW IT'S A BAD DAY WHEN EVEN SEWER RATS CALL YOUR BLUFF --"
THUNK
WHAAH THP!

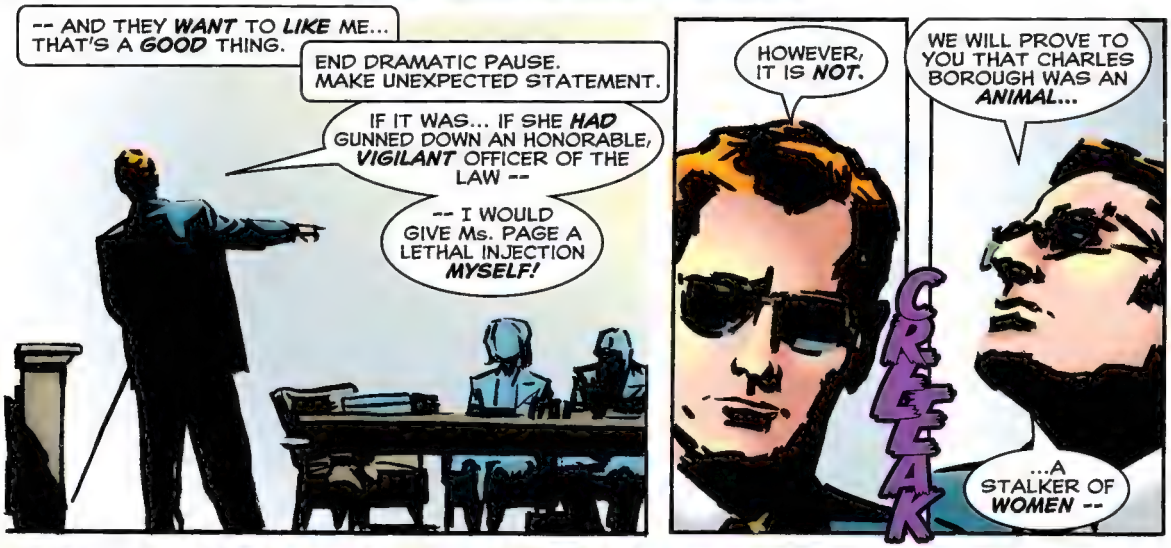
I SAW THE NEWS. KAREN.
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED... SOME COMPAN --
-- NEED SOME HELP.
HEY! WHO IS THAT?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
YOU'RE WASTING TIME. DROP HIM AND LET'S MOVE ON.
HER HEARTBEAT CAUGHT MY HYPER-SENSITIVE EAR A SPLIT SECOND BEFORE THE SAI FOUND ITS MARK...
ELEKTRA. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE --
...TINY PERFECT EXPLOSIONS. DETONATING IN SYNCH WITH THE PULSE OF THE WORLD...
I DO... SHE WAS FRAMED... I'M HAVING A DEVIL OF A TIME PROVING IT, BUT YOU...
...LAST I HEARD... YOUR NOSE WASN'T SO CLEAN ANY-MORE.
IT NEVER WAS.
I CAN'T WORK WITH A KILLER, ELEKTRA... IS IT TRUE?
MATT... THIS WASN'T EASY, COMING HERE... DO YOU WANT MY HELP OR NOT?

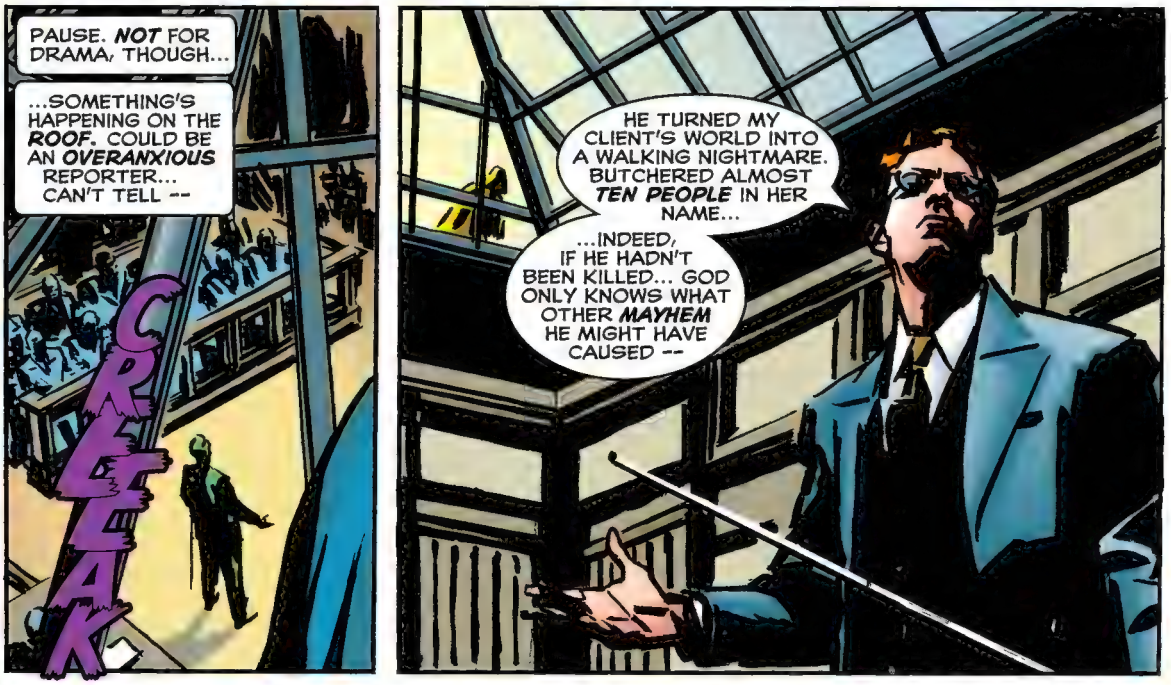

I COULD REALLY *USE* YOU BY MY SIDE, ELEKTRA...
...BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO WORRY ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE *GUTTING* ANYONE IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE...
...
TOUGH, ISN'T IT?
TO PLAY THE *RIGHTEOUS HERO* WHEN THOSE YOU OPPOSE --
-- STRIKE SO CLOSE TO THE SEAT OF YOUR *GOODNESS*?
SCHRIP
OW!
WAAH!
A LITTLE *ADVICE* FROM A FRIEND...
... BEGGARS CAN'T BE *CHOOSERS*, DEVIL. FOR *KAREN'S* SAKE...
ELEKTRA'S *SCENT* LINGERS LONG AFTER SHE'S DISAPPEARED INTO THE SHADOWS...
...HER *WORDS* KEEP ME AWAKE ALL NIGHT.
...DON'T LET *PRIDE* KEEP YOU FROM ACCEPTING *HELP*.
NO MATTER *WHAT* FORM IT'S IN.
UPPER-WESTSIDE... UPPERWESTSIDE... THAT'S ALL I KNOW... Oh GOD...
REALLY DID IT, REALLY *DROPPED* ME...
EYES *STRAIGHT*. DON'T *STARE*, BUT DON'T SHY AWAY FROM EYE CONTACT WITH THE JURY.
ANY QUESTIONS?
JUST *ONE*...


AM I INSANE FOR BELIEVING IN YOU AS MUCH AS I DO?
REE
Stalker Slayer
FREE
"OPENING STATEMENTS BEGIN TODAY IN THE TRIAL THAT THREATENS TO TEAR THE CITY APART...
"...AND IF THE FIREWORKS ON THE COURTHOUSE STEPS ARE ANY INDICATOR OF WHAT'S HAPPENING INSIDE...
"...EXPECT AN EXPLOSIVE DAY OF LITIGATION."
...A WOMAN... WHO IRRESPONSIBLY PURCHASED A GUN... WITH THE INTENT TO USE IT...
...ON OFFICER BOROUGHS... THE UNFORTUNATE VICTIM OF HER PARANOIA. A WOMAN...
...WITH A QUESTIONABLE PAST INVOLVING DRUGS, PETTY LARCENY... AND WORSE.
THE STATE WILL SHOW, WITH IRONCLAD FORENSIC CERTAINTY...
...THAT KAREN PAGE COMMITTED MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE.
THANK YOU.


KAREN PAGE, AS YOU'LL NO DOUBT HEAR DURING THIS TRIAL, HAS BEEN *MANY* THINGS IN HER LIFE...
...SOME, I'M CERTAIN, SHE WISHES *WOULDN'T* COME UP IN THIS PROCEEDING...
... UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE *PROSECUTION*, COLD-BLOODED KILLER IS *NOT* ON HER *RESUME*.
DRAMATIC PAUSE. *PARTLY* FOR EFFECT --

-- MORE SO THAT MY *YAP* DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH THE WORK OF MY *HYPER-SENSES*... PICKING UP *PULSE RATES*... THE SMELL OF *PERSPIRATION*...
...THE NUMBER OF TIMES A JUROR *SWALLOWS* ARE ALL INDICATORS OF HOW I'M DOING. AT THE *MOMENT*, THEY'RE PAYING ATTENTION --

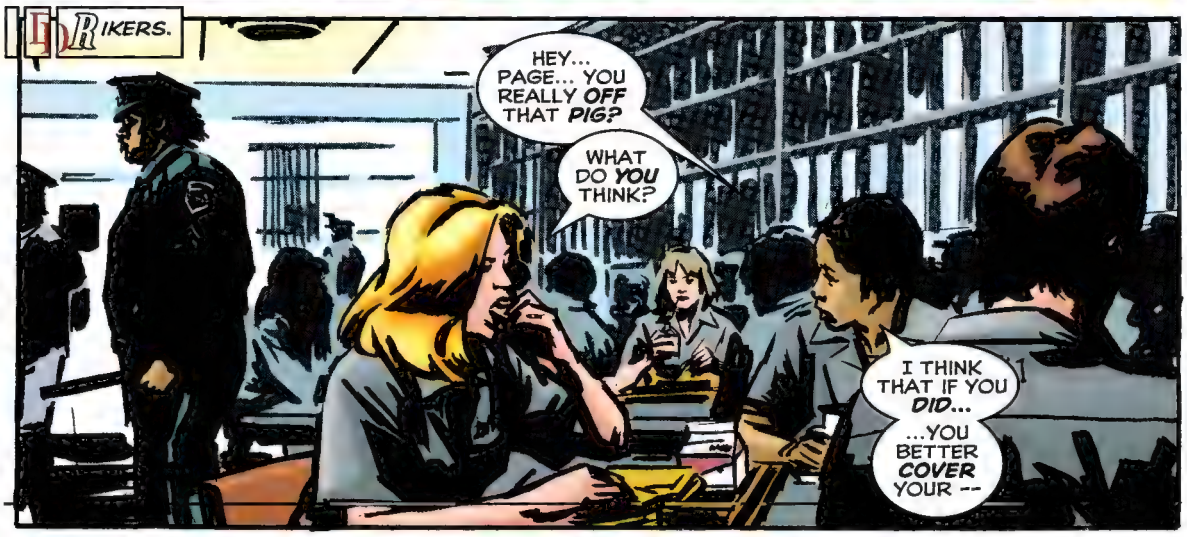

-- AND THEY *WANT* TO *LIKE* ME... THAT'S A *GOOD* THING.
END DRAMATIC PAUSE. MAKE UNEXPECTED STATEMENT.
IF IT WAS... IF SHE *HAD* GUNNED DOWN AN HONORABLE, *VIGILANT* OFFICER OF THE LAW --
-- I WOULD GIVE Ms. PAGE A LETHAL INJECTION *MYSELF!*
HOWEVER, IT IS *NOT*.
WE WILL PROVE TO YOU THAT CHARLES BOROUGH WAS AN *ANIMAL*...
CREEAK
...A STALKER OF *WOMEN* --


PAUSE. *NOT* FOR DRAMA, THOUGH...
...SOMETHING'S HAPPENING ON THE *ROOF*. COULD BE AN *OVERANXIOUS* REPORTER... CAN'T TELL --
CREEAK
HE TURNED MY CLIENT'S WORLD INTO A WALKING NIGHTMARE. BUTCHERED ALMOST *TEN PEOPLE* IN HER NAME...
...INDEED, IF HE HADN'T BEEN KILLED... GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT OTHER *MAYHEM* HE MIGHT HAVE CAUSED --

I HEAR THE GLASS START TO FRACTURE, AND HALF A GASP LATER --
-- THE WORLD VEERS SHARPLY OFF COURSE.
KISHA
DEAR GOD!
-- AMBULANCE --
-- UNIT ON THE ROOF!
I ♥ U KAREN
AND GOD HELP ME, THE FIRST THOUGHT TO ENTER MY MIND WAS...
...THERE GOES MY CASE.
THE TRIAL OF KAREN PAGE TOOK AN INTERESTING TWIST TODAY --
-- WHEN A SURPRISE WITNESS BROKE PROTOCOL AND APPEARED DURING OPENING REMARKS.
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A JOKE?
JUST TRYING TO ADD A LITTLE LEVITY TO THIS TRAGIC, TRAGIC DEVELOPMENT, JOANIE.

MARISSA DWYER. CANDACE NELSON'S PARTNER IN GRUNGE. CHARLIE'S FIRST VICTIM.
WE'D HAD HER DEAD AND BURIED MONTHS AGO. JUDGING BY THE MEDICAL REPORT...
...SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF.
I HALFHEARTEDLY SCAN HER FOR RESIDUAL CLUES... SCENTS... BUT EVERY LAYER I PEEL BACK...
...PAINTS TOO VIVID A PICTURE OF WHAT SHE'S BEEN THROUGH.
SALT FROM SWEAT, NOT ALL HERS. NYLON FIBERS JUTTING OUT OF ONCE SOFT SKIN... ROPE. MILDEW -- I CAN'T GO ON.
IT'S ALL I CAN DO NOT TO PASS OUT... FEAR, YOU INHUMAN MONSTER -- I JUST CAN'T DO IT. I --
-- SOMEONE'S COMING.
WELL NOW... AREN'T WE A MESS?
THAT VOICE... NO... I'M JUST TIRED --
FEELING PRETTY DOWN, I'D IMAGINE... AFRAID? SICK?
WELL, DON'T WORRY, DARLING... YOU HAVE A GUARDIAN ANGEL LOOKING OUT FOR YOU. I KNOW... I CAN FEEL HIM.
FUNNY THING ABOUT GUARDIAN ANGELS...
THEY ONLY KNOW TO HELP YOU WHEN YOU ASK OUT LOUD.
PLEASE, MATTHEW... HAVE FAITH. YOU CAN SAVE HER.
"I BELIEVE IN YOU."

I STILL DON'T WANT TO DO THIS... BUT WITH HER VOICE... THOSE WORDS... THE ACID IN MY STOMACH RETREATS JUST ENOUGH...
...NYLON FIBERS, ROPE... MILDEW... MILDEW...
MAGGIE?
MOM?
...


RIKERS.
HEY... PAGE... YOU REALLY OFF THAT PIG?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I THINK THAT IF YOU DID...
...YOU BETTER COVER YOUR --

BEAT IT, PERP.
OFFICER SMILEY, LOVELY TO SEE YOU. FINGER SANDWICH?

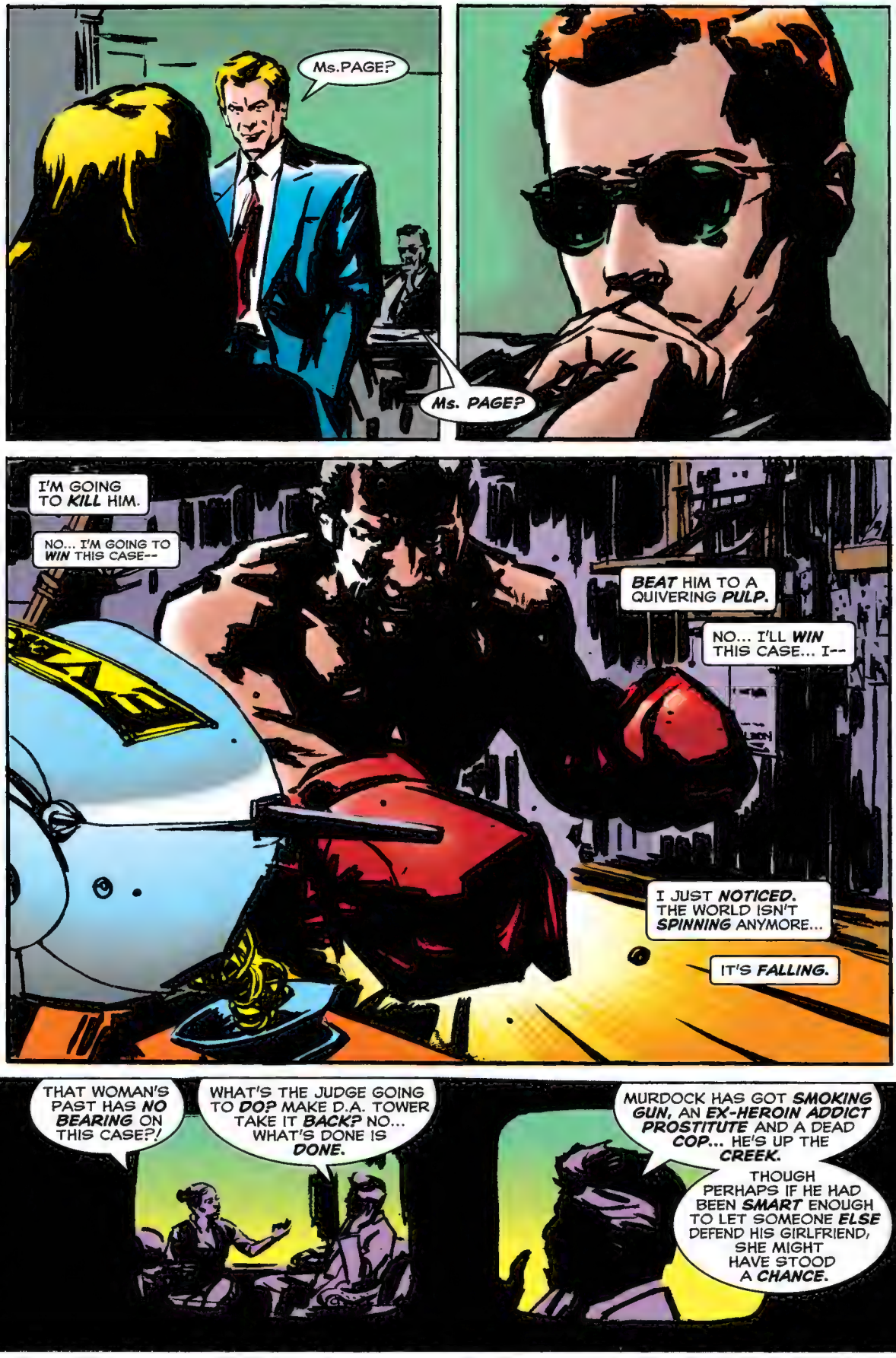
FRESH BODY SORT OF BLOWS THE WHOLE "OFFICER AS STALKER" THEORY, DON'T IT, PAGE?

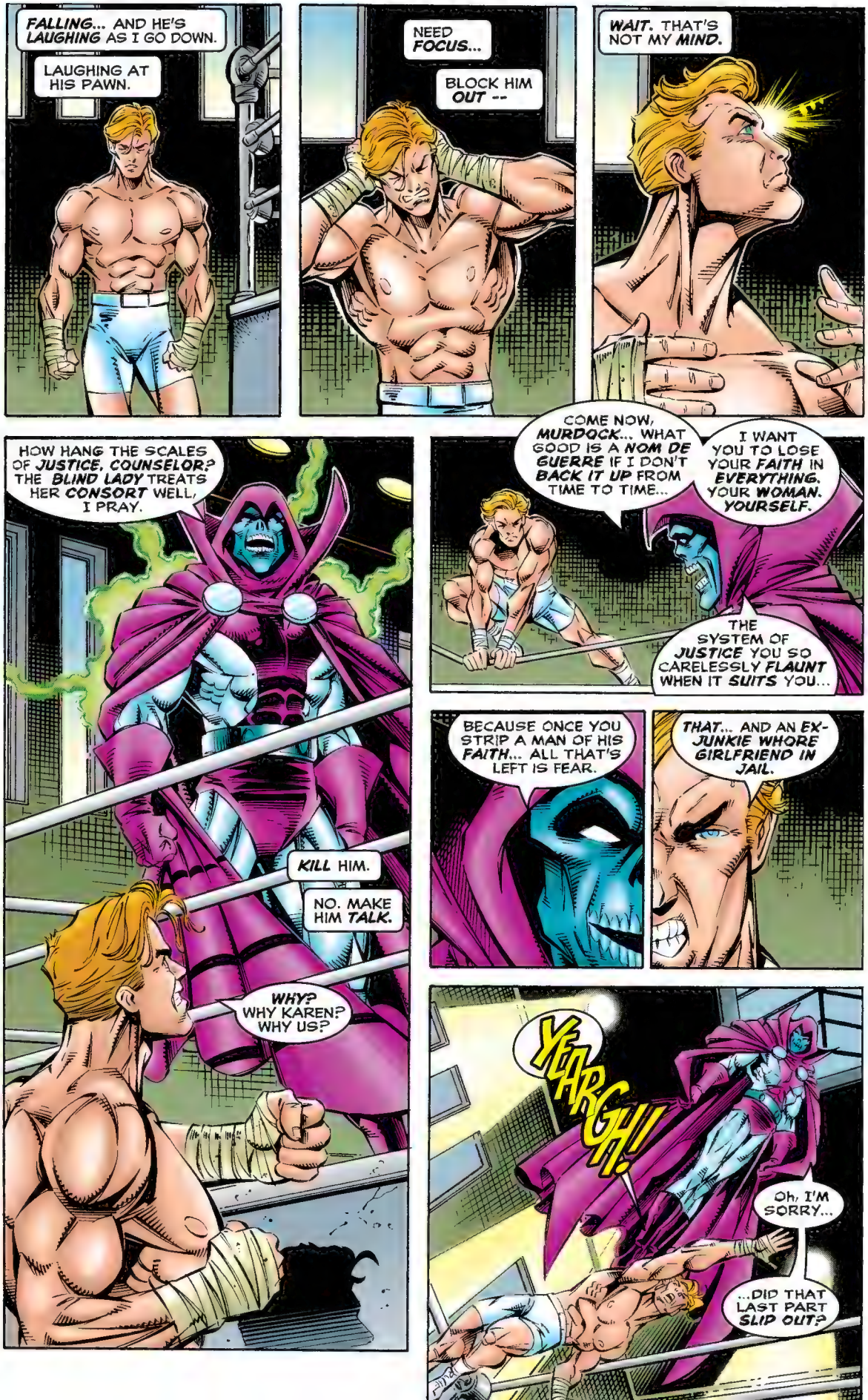
I'M GONNA GIVE IT TO YOU BAD, COP KILLER... DON'T SLEEP.

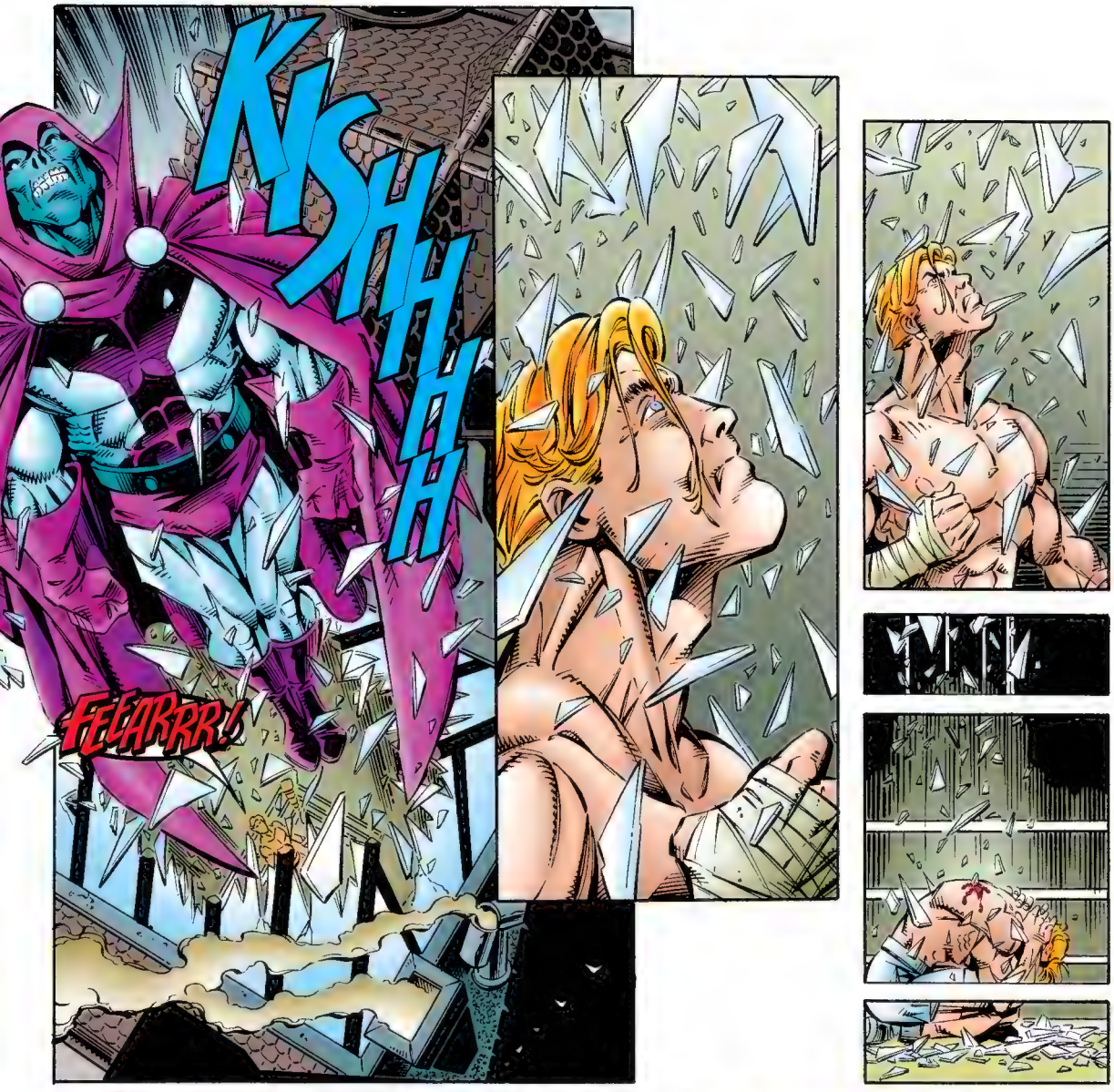
SRASSH

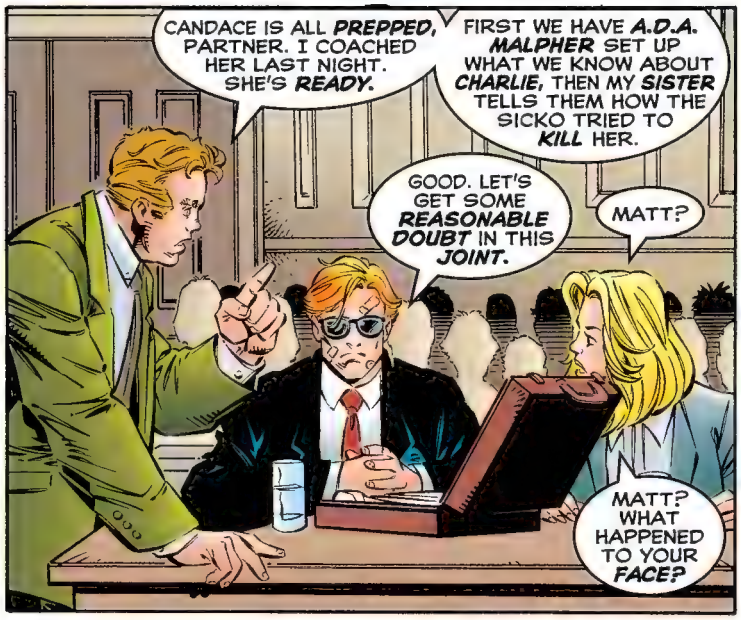
...THIRD DAY OF TESTIMONY, AND TO BE QUITE FRANK, I'M NOT SURE WHERE MURDOCK AND COMPANY CAN GO.
THE "TRIPLE THREAT" STALKER HAS RESURFACED, AND THE PROSECUTION LAUNCHED A PRECISION ATTACK AGAINST PAGE WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THEIR WITNESSES..
IS THAT AN ELECTRIC CHAIR I HEAR WARMING UP?

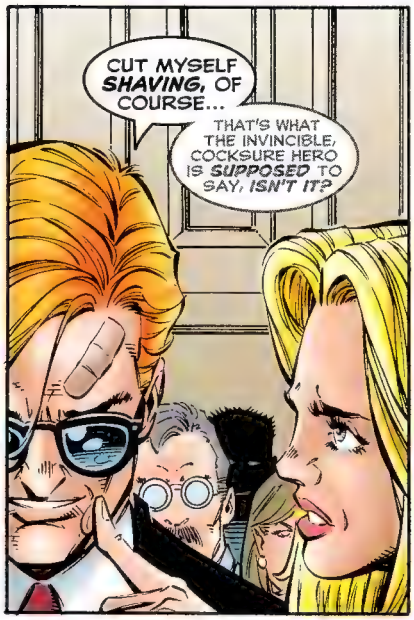
WE FOUND ENOUGH FORENSIC EVIDENCE TO CONVICT IN THIS, OR ANY STATE. SHE DID IT.
OBJECTION.
MS. PAGE WAS FOUND UNCONSCIOUS, HERE. OFFICER BOROUGHS, HERE... A LITERAL SMOKING GUN MYSTERY... NOT MUCH OF A MYSTERY.
BIZ. KAREN PAGE'S APT.
OBJECTION.
CHARLIE... I... HE SAVED MY-- I-- I CAN'T GO ON... GIVE ME A SECOND, WILL YOU?
EXCUSE ME, Ms. SHARPE?
I SAID, YES, Mr. TOWER, I DID... EXPEDITE THE GUN LICENSING PROCESS FOR Ms. PAGE. PULLED A STRING OR TWO SO SHE COULD GET A GUN...
NO, YOU'RE TWISTING MY WORDS! I SAID I WAS WITH HER THE NIGHT OF THE FIRST MURDER-- I NEVER SAID WE HAD A RELATIONSHIP--
PERMISSION TO TREAT Mr. HUNTER AS A HOSTILE WITNESS, YOUR HONOR.
PATRICK... SOUND ENGINEERING IS YOUR STOCK-IN-TRADE... IS THE MAN ON THAT TAPE THE SAME MAN WHOSE VOICE YOU HEARD TWO DAYS AGO CALLING FOR Ms. PAGE?
YEAH... I GUESS IT DOES SOUND LIKE HIM...
HE CAME AT ME... RAISED A KNIFE-- AND I BLACKED OUT.
CONVENIENT. NOW, Ms. PAGE... IS IT NOT TRUE... THAT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN YOU WERE ADDICTED TO HEROIN?
OBJECTION!
OVERRULED.
YES...
AND AT THAT TIME, WERE YOU NOT ALSO INVOLVED IN THE BUSINESS OF PORNOGRAPHY?
OBJECTION!!!
Ms. PAGE... WHEN YOU WERE PROSTITUTING YOURSELF... ON HEROIN... DID YOU EVER BLACK OUT?

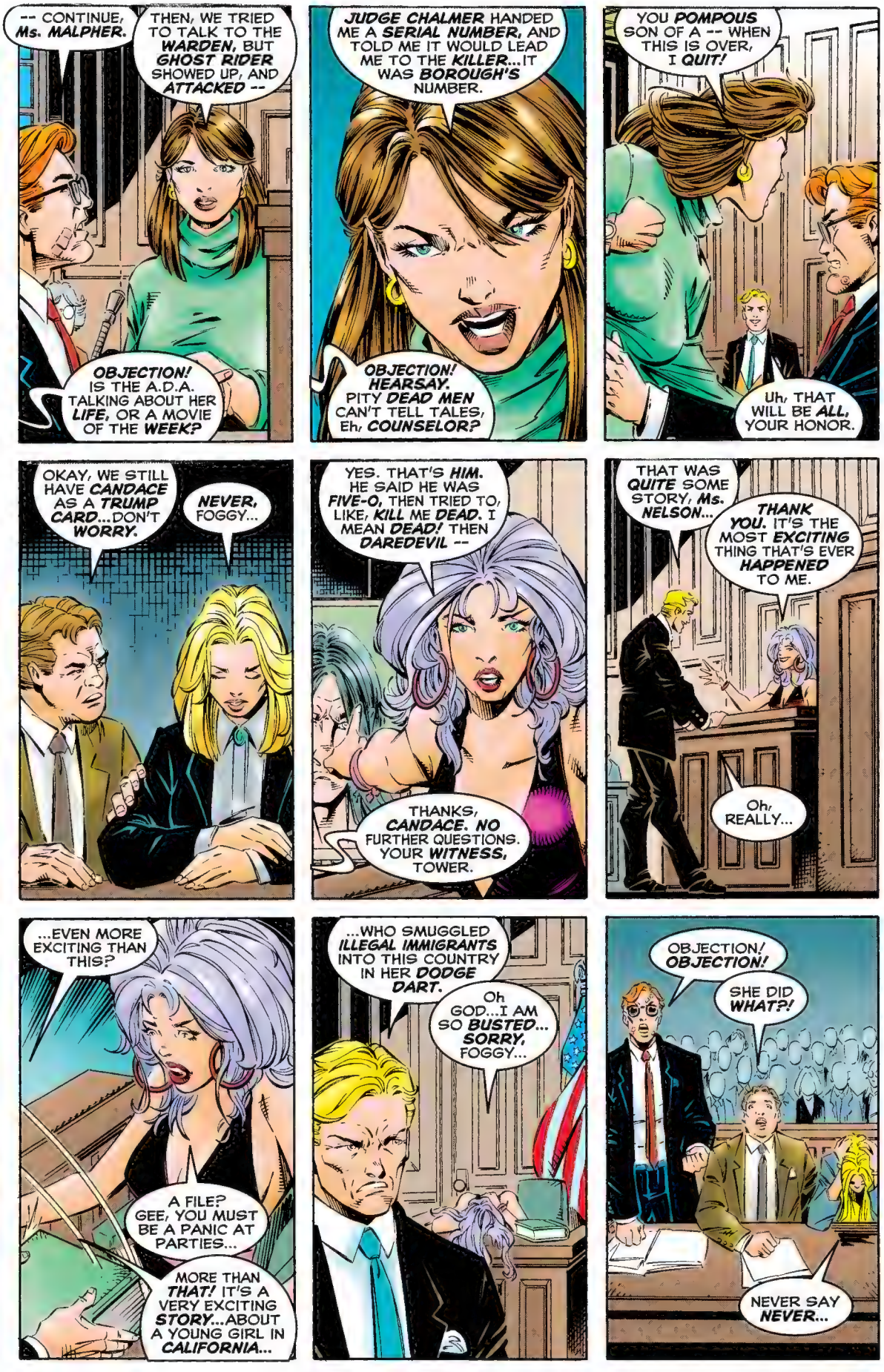

Ms.PAGE?
Ms. PAGE?
I'M GOING TO KILL HIM.
NO... I'M GOING TO WIN THIS CASE--
BEAT HIM TO A QUIVERING PULP.
NO... I'LL WIN THIS CASE... I--
I JUST NOTICED. THE WORLD ISN'T SPINNING ANYMORE...
IT'S FALLING.
THAT WOMAN'S PAST HAS NO BEARING ON THIS CASE?!
WHAT'S THE JUDGE GOING TO DO? MAKE D.A. TOWER TAKE IT BACK? NO... WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
MURDOCK HAS GOT SMOKING GUN, AN EX-HEROIN ADDICT PROSTITUTE AND A DEAD COP... HE'S UP THE CREEK.
THOUGH PERHAPS IF HE HAD BEEN SMART ENOUGH TO LET SOMEONE ELSE DEFEND HIS GIRLFRIEND, SHE MIGHT HAVE STOOD A CHANCE.

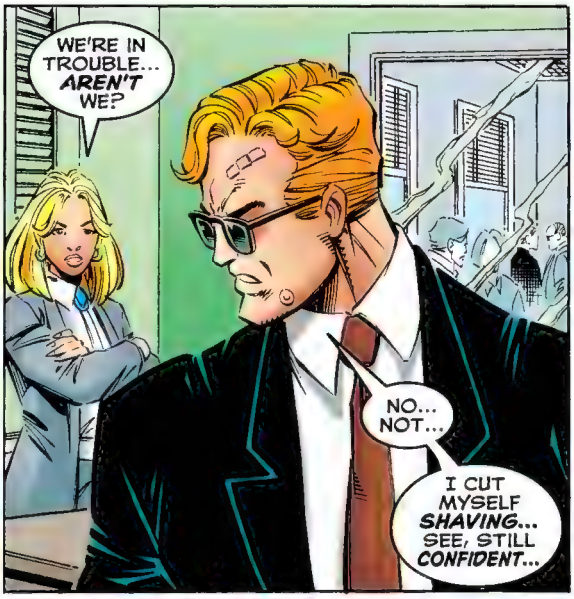

FALLING... AND HE'S LAUGHING AS I GO DOWN.
LAUGHING AT HIS PAWN.
NEED FOCUS...
BLOCK HIM OUT --
WAIT. THAT'S NOT MY MIND.
HOW HANG THE SCALES OF JUSTICE, COUNSELOR? THE BLIND LADY TREATS HER CONSORT WELL, I PRAY.
KILL HIM.
NO. MAKE HIM TALK.
WHY? WHY KAREN? WHY US?
COME NOW, MURDOCK... WHAT GOOD IS A NOM DE GUERRE IF I DON'T BACK IT UP FROM TIME TO TIME...
I WANT YOU TO LOSE YOUR FAITH IN EVERYTHING. YOUR WOMAN. YOURSELF.
THE SYSTEM OF JUSTICE YOU SO CARELESSLY FLAUNT WHEN IT SUITS YOU...
BECAUSE ONCE YOU STRIP A MAN OF HIS FAITH... ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FEAR.
THAT... AND AN EX-JUNKIE WHORE GIRLFRIEND IN JAIL.
YEARGH!
Oh, I'M SORRY...
...DID THAT LAST PART SLIP OUT?

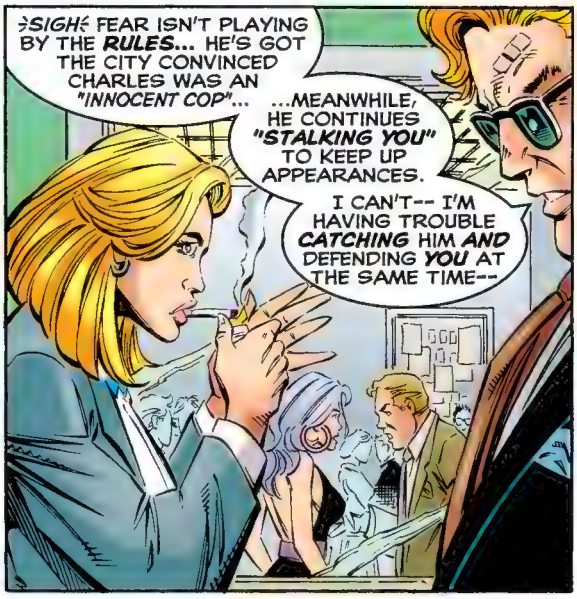

KISHHHH
FEEARRRR!

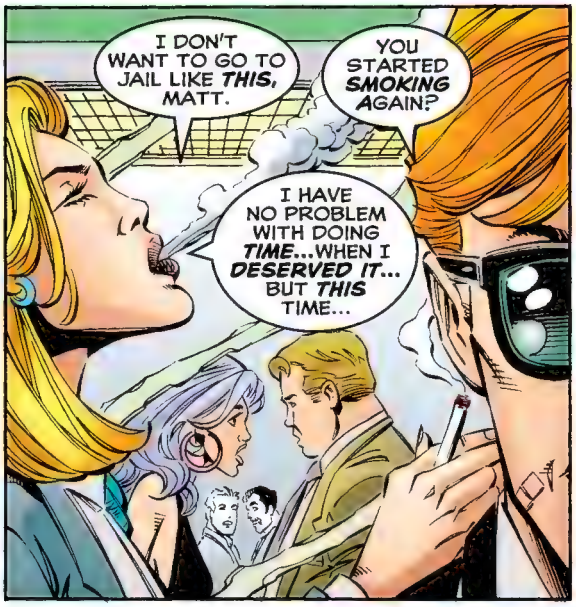

CANDACE IS ALL PREPPED, PARTNER. I COACHED HER LAST NIGHT. SHE'S READY.
FIRST WE HAVE A.D.A. MALPHER SET UP WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT CHARLIE, THEN MY SISTER TELLS THEM HOW THE SICKO TRIED TO KILL HER.
GOOD. LET'S GET SOME REASONABLE DOUBT IN THIS JOINT.
MATT?
MATT? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?

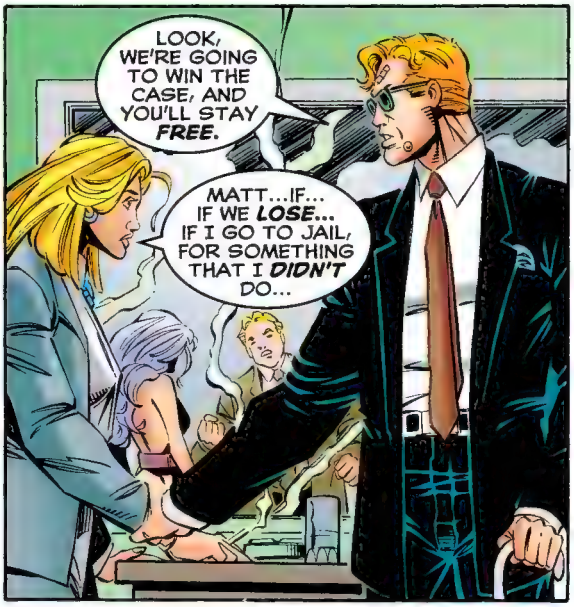

CUT MYSELF SHAVING, OF COURSE...
THAT'S WHAT THE INVINCIBLE, COCKSURE HERO IS SUPPOSED TO SAY, ISN'T IT?

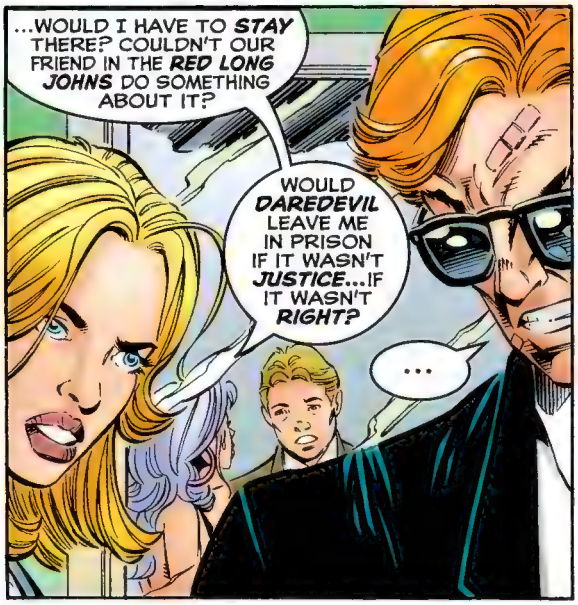

-- CONTINUE, Ms. MALPHER.
THEN, WE TRIED TO TALK TO THE WARDEN, BUT GHOST RIDER SHOWED UP, AND ATTACKED --
OBJECTION! IS THE A.D.A. TALKING ABOUT HER LIFE, OR A MOVIE OF THE WEEK?
JUDGE CHALMER HANDED ME A SERIAL NUMBER, AND TOLD ME IT WOULD LEAD ME TO THE KILLER...IT WAS BOROUGH'S NUMBER.
OBJECTION! HEARSAY. PITY DEAD MEN CAN'T TELL TALES, Eh, COUNSELOR?
YOU POMPOUS SON OF A -- WHEN THIS IS OVER, I QUIT!
Uh, THAT WILL BE ALL, YOUR HONOR.
OKAY, WE STILL HAVE CANDACE AS A TRUMP CARD...DON'T WORRY.
NEVER, FOGGY...
YES. THAT'S HIM. HE SAID HE WAS FIVE-O, THEN TRIED TO, LIKE, KILL ME DEAD. I MEAN DEAD! THEN DAREDEVIL --
THANKS, CANDACE. NO FURTHER QUESTIONS. YOUR WITNESS, TOWER.
THAT WAS QUITE SOME STORY, Ms. NELSON...
THANK YOU. IT'S THE MOST EXCITING THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO ME.
Oh, REALLY...
...EVEN MORE EXCITING THAN THIS?
A FILE? GEE, YOU MUST BE A PANIC AT PARTIES...
MORE THAN THAT! IT'S A VERY EXCITING STORY...ABOUT A YOUNG GIRL IN CALIFORNIA...
...WHO SMUGGLED ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS INTO THIS COUNTRY IN HER DODGE DART.
Oh GOD...I AM SO BUSTED... SORRY, FOGGY...
OBJECTION! OBJECTION!
SHE DID WHAT?!
NEVER SAY NEVER...

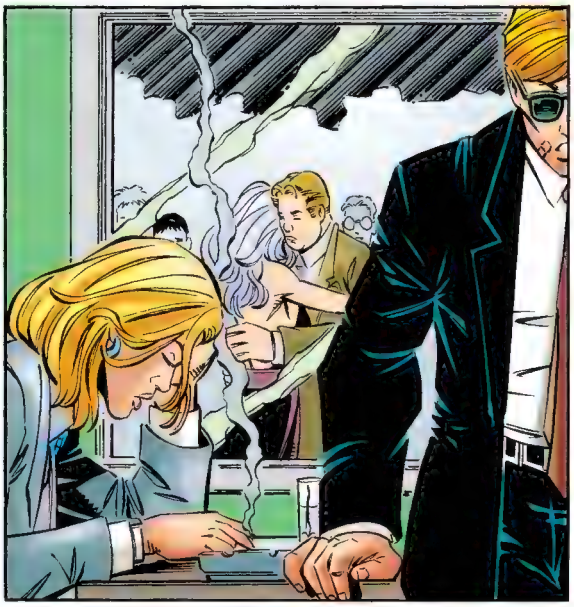

WE'RE IN TROUBLE... AREN'T WE?
NO... NOT...
I CUT MYSELF SHAVING... SEE, STILL CONFIDENT...


SIGH FEAR ISN'T PLAYING BY THE RULES... HE'S GOT THE CITY CONVINCED CHARLES WAS AN "INNOCENT COP"...
...MEANWHILE, HE CONTINUES "STALKING YOU" TO KEEP UP APPEARANCES.
I CAN'T-- I'M HAVING TROUBLE CATCHING HIM AND DEFENDING YOU AT THE SAME TIME--


I DON'T WANT TO GO TO JAIL LIKE THIS, MATT.
YOU STARTED SMOKING AGAIN?
I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH DOING TIME...WHEN I DESERVED IT... BUT THIS TIME...


LOOK, WE'RE GOING TO WIN THE CASE, AND YOU'LL STAY FREE.
MATT...IF... IF WE LOSE... IF I GO TO JAIL, FOR SOMETHING THAT I DIDN'T DO...


...WOULD I HAVE TO STAY THERE? COULDN'T OUR FRIEND IN THE RED LONG JOHNS DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?
WOULD DAREDEVIL LEAVE ME IN PRISON IF IT WASN'T JUSTICE...IF IT WASN'T RIGHT?
...



RIKERS.
IS THIS ROCK BOTTOM?
WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
BECAUSE I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M FALLING ANYMORE...
...MORE LIKE, MAYBE I ALREADY CRASHED...
...AND MY SPIRIT'S JUST WAITING FOR MY BODY TO CATCH UP.
YOU CAN COME OUT NOW, WIDOW. NO ONE'S BREAKING ANYONE OUT OF PRISON TONIGHT...
TOO BAD, DARLING...IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN FUN TO CHASE YOU AROUND FOR A WHILE AND CHAIN YOU UP LIKE A BAD BOY.
...BUT TRY AGAIN WHEN THE VERDICT'S IN, NATASHA. MAYBE YOU'LL GET A WORKOUT THEN.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD TRY IT, REALLY...BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D TAKE A SWING AT A REPORTER EITHER.
SHE DOESN'T THINK I CAN WIN THIS CASE, NATASHA.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I...I DON'T KNOW...I THOUGHT I COULD. BUT FEAR'S TURNING THE SYSTEM AGAINST ME... I CAN'T BUY JUDGES AND FORGE REPORTS AND HAVE PEOPLE PERJURE THEMSELVES TO GET KAREN OFF...
...BUT HE CAN DO ANYTHING.

MAYBE, BUT YOU HAVE SOMETHING BETTER. FEAR IS WORKING FROM A POSITION OF HATE... AND YES, HATE DOES BURN BRIGHT --
-- BUT YOUR LOVE... FOR KAREN ...IT GLOWS BRIGHTER.
SOUNDS FUNNY, COMING FROM YOU.
MAYBE, BUT WHO WOULD KNOW BETTER?
MATT, KAREN MAY HAVE HER DOUBTS, BUT IN HER HEART, SHE KNOWS THAT YOU WOULD DIVE STRAIGHT INTO HELL FOR HER...
...AND SHE WOULD GLADLY FOLLOW.
SHE KNOWS YOU WON'T LET HER DOWN.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
BECAUSE... YOU NEVER LET ME DOWN. EVER.
THANKS, TASHA...
THANK YOU.
ELSEWHERE...

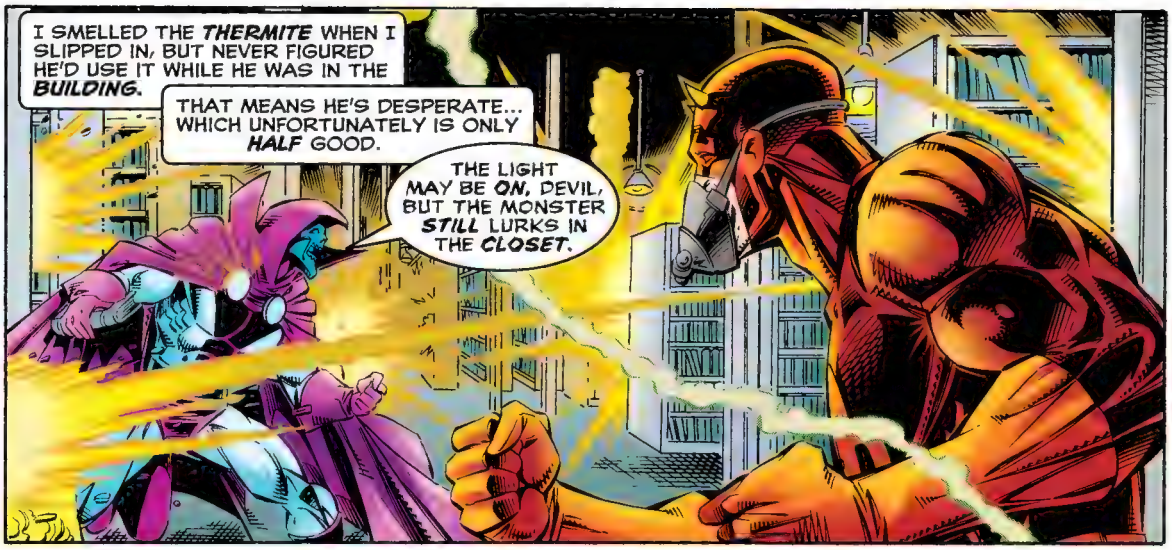
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU DID LAUNDRY?
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU GOT REAL SLEEP?
THAT'S NOT FUNNY. IT'S SCARY.
MATT...I KNOW YOU NEED TO DO...YOU KNOW, THE DD THING...BUT WE'RE GETTING SLAMMED OUT THERE. WE NEED FOCUS--
I KNOW, FOG, BUT THE WAY FEAR IS PLAYING ME, I NEED TO CATCH A BREAK OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM.
HE HAS TO MAKE A MISTAKE, AND WHEN HE DOES --
NOT TO BE INSENSITIVE, PAL...BUT ARE YOU BLIND?!? THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTS YOU TO DO!
HE WANTS YOU TO SPEND ALL NIGHT HUNTING HIM, AND ALL DAY GETTING FRUS-TRATED!
YOU CANNOT WIN LIKE THIS!
IS IT WORTH NAILING THE BAD GUY IF KAREN GETS THE CHAIR?!?
--AS THE TRIAL NEARS ITS FINAL PHASE, ALL INDICATORS POINT TO A GUILTY VERDICT FOR KAREN PAGE.
LOOKS LIKE EVEN MURDOCK, KNOWN FOR SPECTACULAR SAVES IN THE COURTROOM, WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK HIS MAGIC HERE--
--NOT UNLESS HE'S GOT A GUARDIAN ANGEL ON HIS SHOULDER--
IT'S NOT MAGIC...IT'S ALWAYS SKILL WITH MURDOCK... ALWAYS.
PAI, THE LEAR. TWENTY MINUTES.
WE'RE GOING HOME.

"WHEN YOU HIT BOTTOM... WHEN YOUR BEST FRIEND IMPLIES THAT YOU MIGHT KILL THE WOMAN YOU LOVE...
"THERE'S REALLY NOWHERE LEFT TO GO BUT UP.
"ASSUMING ONE HAS STRENGTH LEFT TO CLIMB."
BUT MURDERS AND SUPER HEROES ARE SO OUT OF MY DEPTH.
THEY NEVER TOLD US ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING IN SCHOOL... GUMMED UP TAPES, SKIPPING CD'S, SURE...
THE COMPUTERS ARE WRONG... I CAN PICK OUT FEAR'S VOICE, NO MATTER HOW HE DISGUISES IT... BUT I CAN'T PROVE IT IN COURT.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I'M TORTURING MYSELF...LISTENING TO FEAR GIGGLE ABOUT THE FUN AND GAMES HE HAS IN STORE FOR KAREN IS JUST--
WHOA.
I'VE BEEN SO OBSESSED WITH FEAR..I DIDN'T EVEN THINK TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING ELSE ON THE TAPE.
SPACES BETWEEN WORDS...
MINE TOO, APPARENTLY. GO FOR IT.
...DRAMATIC PAUSES...
BACKGROUND NOISE.
A SUBWAY. FROM THE ECHO, AND THE DEPTH OF THE SOUND, IT'S LITERALLY FEET AWAY, UNDERGROUND, SEPARATED BY CONCRETE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA HEAR, I'VE ALREADY RUN THESE TAPES THROUGH THE MACHINE FIFTY TIMES, AND THEY'RE A MATCH.
PIECES START TO CONGEAL...MARISSA. MARISSA--MILDEW.
NOT JUST THE REEK OF SUBTERRANEA... BUT THE STENCH THAT YOU GET WHEN RIFLING THROUGH OLD BOOKS.
SO YOU SAID... HUMOR ME.
LAW BOOKS.
NAILED.

RIKERS...
HEY... PAGE.
KAREN PAGE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE. THANKS FOR PLAYING. NOW BACK OFF.
PAGE, I'M, NOT LOOKING TO BUST YOUR CHOPS...
...I JUST WANTED TO SAY... Y'KNOW, YOU'RE PRETTY HARD-CORE.
I AM, AM I?
YEAH... FIGURED, PRETTY CELEB LIKE YOU WOULD GET IN THE JOINT AND CRACK...
...BUT YOU'RE A TOUGH. NO ONE MESSES WITH YOU. YOU'RE ALRIGHT.
I DON'T FEEL ALRIGHT, BUT THANKS...?
NINA. JUST NINA...
...HEY, YOU MIND IF WE HANG A LITTLE? I'M BORED.
YEAH... SURE.
I DON'T THINK IT'S SUCH A STERLING IDEA FOR ME TO BE ALONE RIGHT NOW --
SOON AS WE GET THE SIGNAL, SHE GOES DOWN.
SOLID... BADGE-KILLING WITCH.
THE TOMBS...
CHAMBER
SIGH I'M ALMOST SAD TO SEE THE TRIAL COME TO A CLOSE... OF COURSE, THERE WILL BE APPEALS, AND THE LIKE --
-- AND THERE'S STILL A GOOD MONTH OR SO BEFORE MURDOCK SNAPS COMPLETELY...
...BUT THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE THRILL OF WATCHING IT ALL COME TOGETHER.
SURE THERE IS, FEAR... THE THRILL OF LYING IN A HOSPITAL BED WATCHING YOUR BONES REKNIT.
YOU'LL LOVE IT.

NO!
YOU HAD ME.
I DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT, BUT YOU DID. HAD ME WRAPPED UP AND READY FOR THE CURB... UNTIL YOU PUSHED IT.
THE SHOWMAN IN YOU, FEAR. THE DRAMA DID IT. YOU DIDN'T THINK TO CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PERFORMANCES.
THE GIRL IN THE SKYLIGHT... GREAT EFFECT. BUT SHE CAME WITH CLUES. STINK OF MILDEW. BOOKS.
THEN THE CALLS, PERFECT SET UP... EXCEPT FOR THE SUBWAY IN THE BACKGROUND, THE ECHO...
...LAST, YOUR CHOICE OF TAUNTS. INTONATIONS. AN INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE "BLIND LADY" OF JUSTICE...
THERE AREN'T MANY LAW LIBRARIES IN THIS CITY... EVEN FEWER RIGHT NEXT TO SUBWAY LINES. COLUMBIA.
SUCKS TO BE YOU.
HARDLY, DEV --
OOF!
...AS LONG AS I HAVE KAREN IN JAIL, MURDOCK TRAPPED IN HIS PRECIOUS SYSTEM, AND A PISTOL FULL OF FEAR GAS -- IT'S STILL MY SHOW!
NO... THIS ISN'T RIGHT...
AARGH!

HOW DOES THAT FEEL, MURDOCK?! YOU'RE ALREADY CLOSE TO THE BREAKING POINT...
...A LITTLE PSYCHOGENIC BOOST OUGHT TO THROW YOU SCREAMING OVER THE EDGE!
...IT IS THE ONE YOU'RE DROWNING IN NOW.
NO.
KRAAK
NOT THIS TIME. I BROUGHT MY SWIMMIES.
Oh, MY.
I MAY BE EASY TO MANIPULATE AND A TAD DENSE AT TIMES... BUT I'M NOT REALLY STUPID!
HOW MUCH MILEAGE DID YOU PLAN TO GET OUT OF THE "FEAR GAS IN THE FACE ROUTINE"?!
IT'S OVER, FEAR. YOU MAY HAVE SWINDLED YOUR WAY THIS FAR -- BUT THE GAMES STOP HERE.
SO, YOU UNEARTHED MY LAIR, WHO CARES?! I HAVE ALL OTHER BASES COVERED! THE THE WORLD IS STACKED AGAINST YOU!
THE TRIAL IS PROCEEDING PERFECTLY, THE JURY SITS DEEP IN MY POCKET --
-- AND DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD LET POOR, ONLY-SLIGHTLY-FILTHY KAREN SPEND TIME IN JAIL UNATTENDED?
IF EVER A WELL HAS BEEN SO COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY POISONED...
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME ANY MORE. I KNOW WHERE I STAND. MY FAITH IS UNSHAKABLE. I'M SOLID ON EARTH.
N- NO... NOT OVER... YET... SO LONG AS YOU DON'T GET THIS --
I'M NOT AFRAID ANYMORE.
DEET
GOOD FOR YOU.

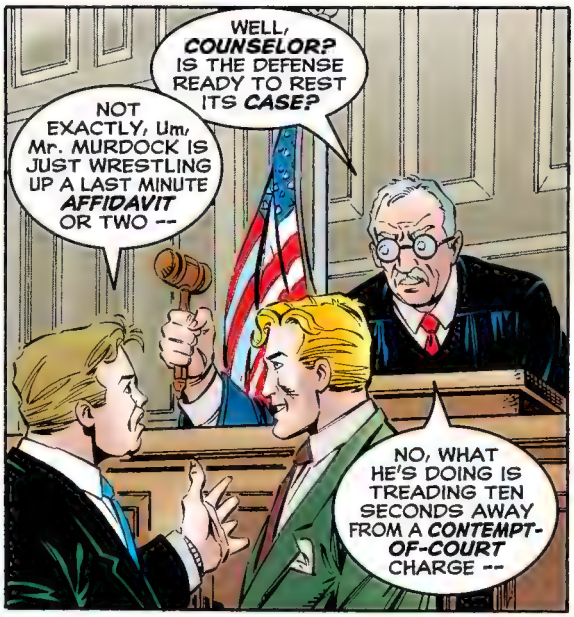

I SMELLED THE THERMITE WHEN I SLIPPED IN, BUT NEVER FIGURED HE'D USE IT WHILE HE WAS IN THE BUILDING.
THAT MEANS HE'S DESPERATE... WHICH UNFORTUNATELY IS ONLY HALF GOOD.
THE LIGHT MAY BE ON, DEVIL, BUT THE MONSTER STILL LURKS IN THE CLOSET.

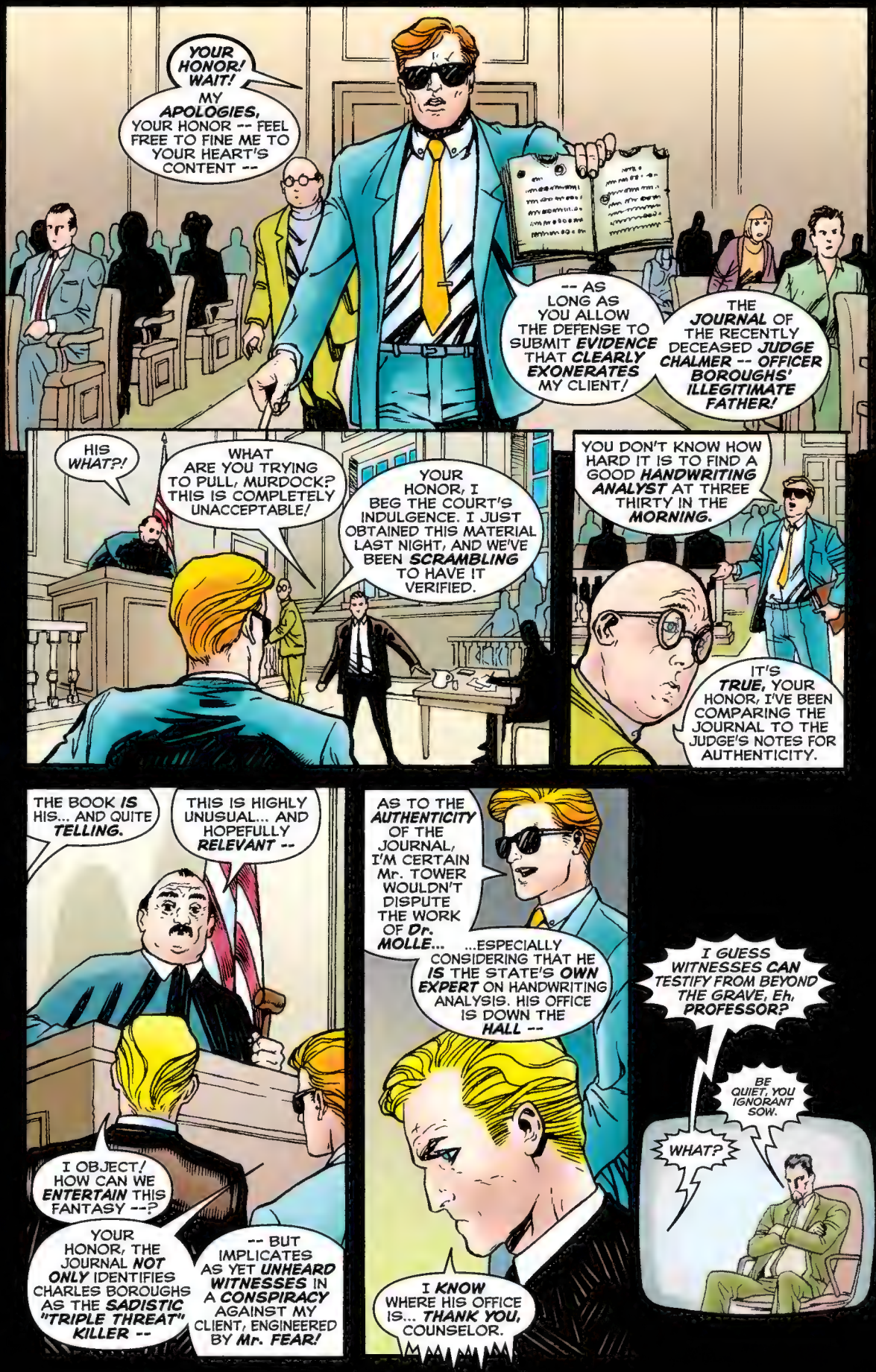
YOU MAY PROCEED WITH BEATING ME TO A PULP, BUT I WILL NEVER CONFESS... NEVER GIVE YOU AN OUT --
-- MEANWHILE, ALL THE EVIDENCE THAT MIGHT SAVE KAREN WILL SMOLDER AROUND US!
COME ON! COME GET ME!
THAT BOOK HE TOSSED INTO THE FLAMES... COULD BE NOTHING... BUT I CAN NEVER TELL WHEN HE'S LYING TO ME --

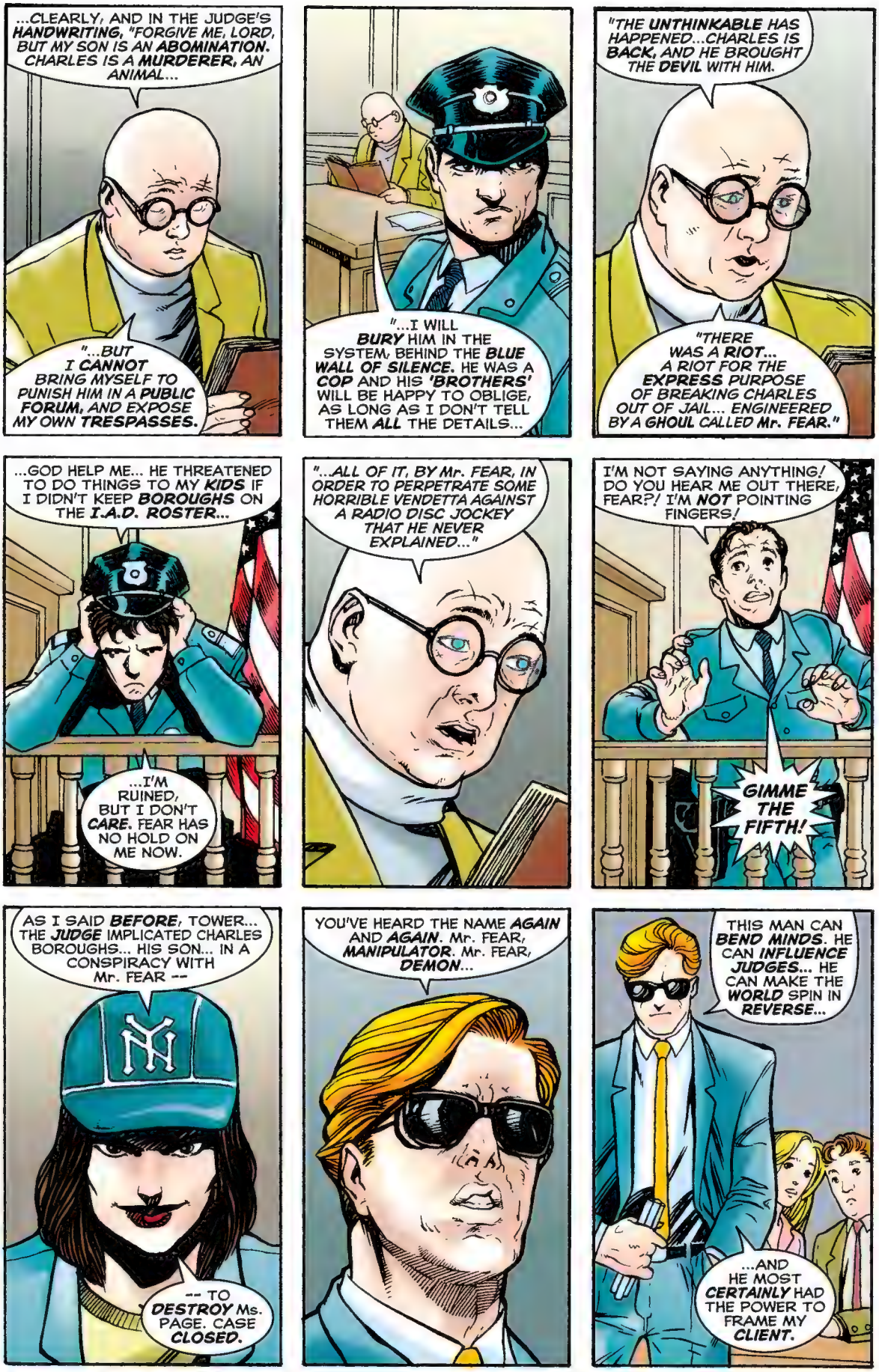
-- THAT INFERNAL FEAR GAS HAS GIVEN ME AN ERRATIC HEARTBEAT --

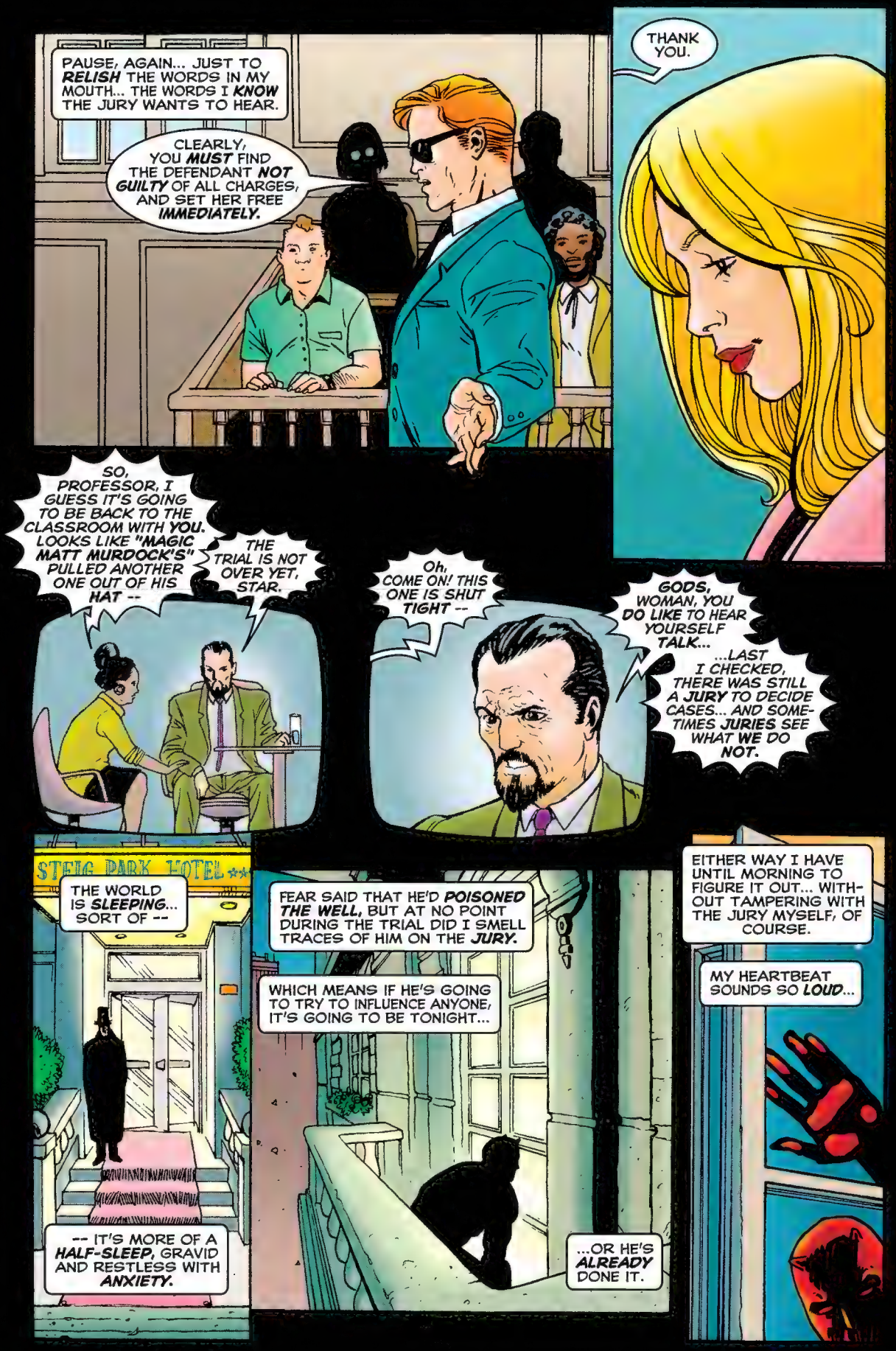
-- I WAS SO CLOSE... BUT HE'S RIGHT... HIS ARREST MIGHT NOT HELP KAREN'S CASE AT ALL... I NEED MORE --
-- I'M SORRY, KAREN.

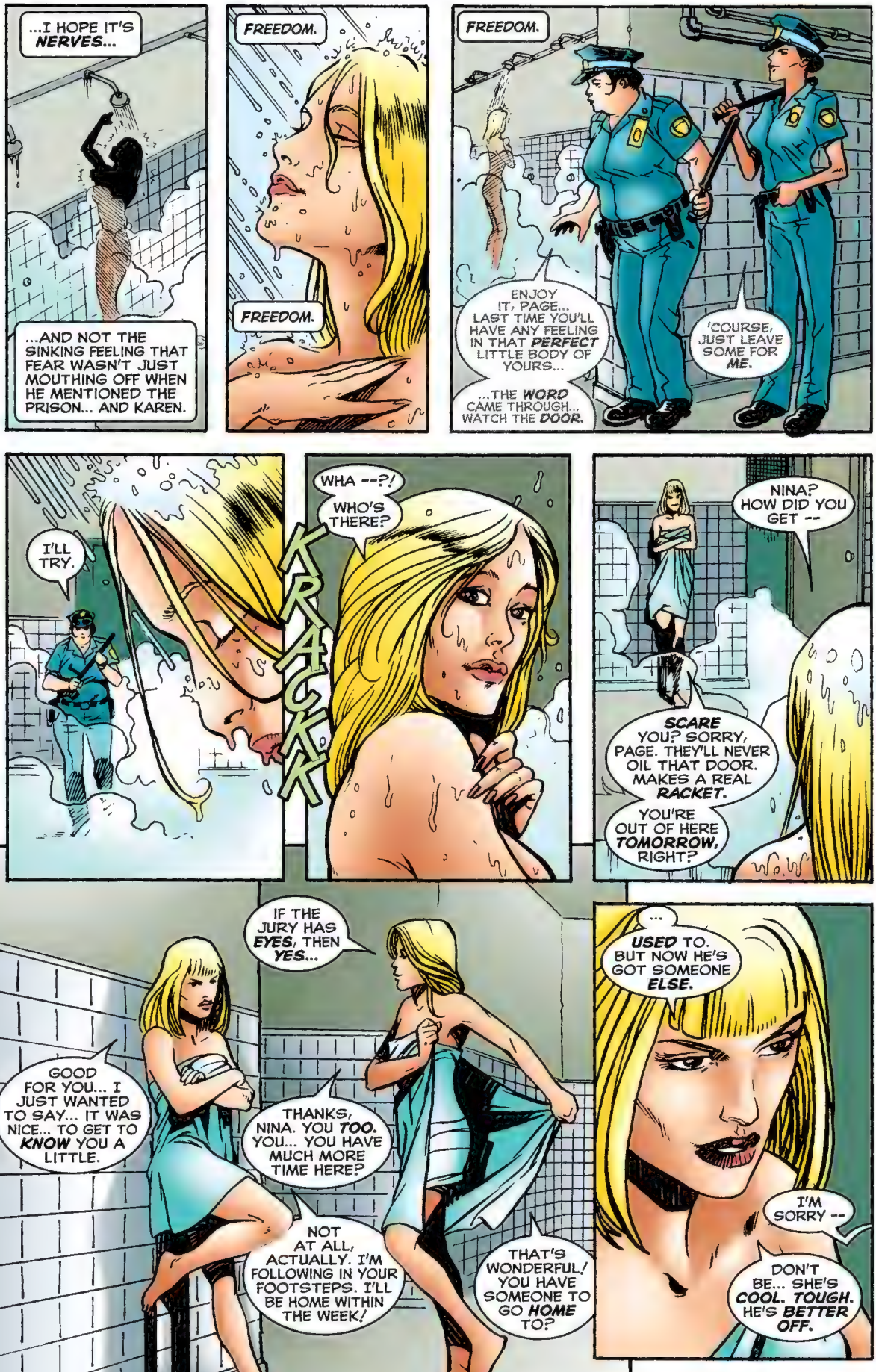
THIS ISN'T FUNNY, FOGGY. WHERE IS HE?
Um... GETTING READY TO BURST IN WITH A LAST MINUTE SURPRISE DEFENSE?
YEAH, RIGHT.
HEY, YOU JUST SIT THERE AND LOOK INNOCENT.

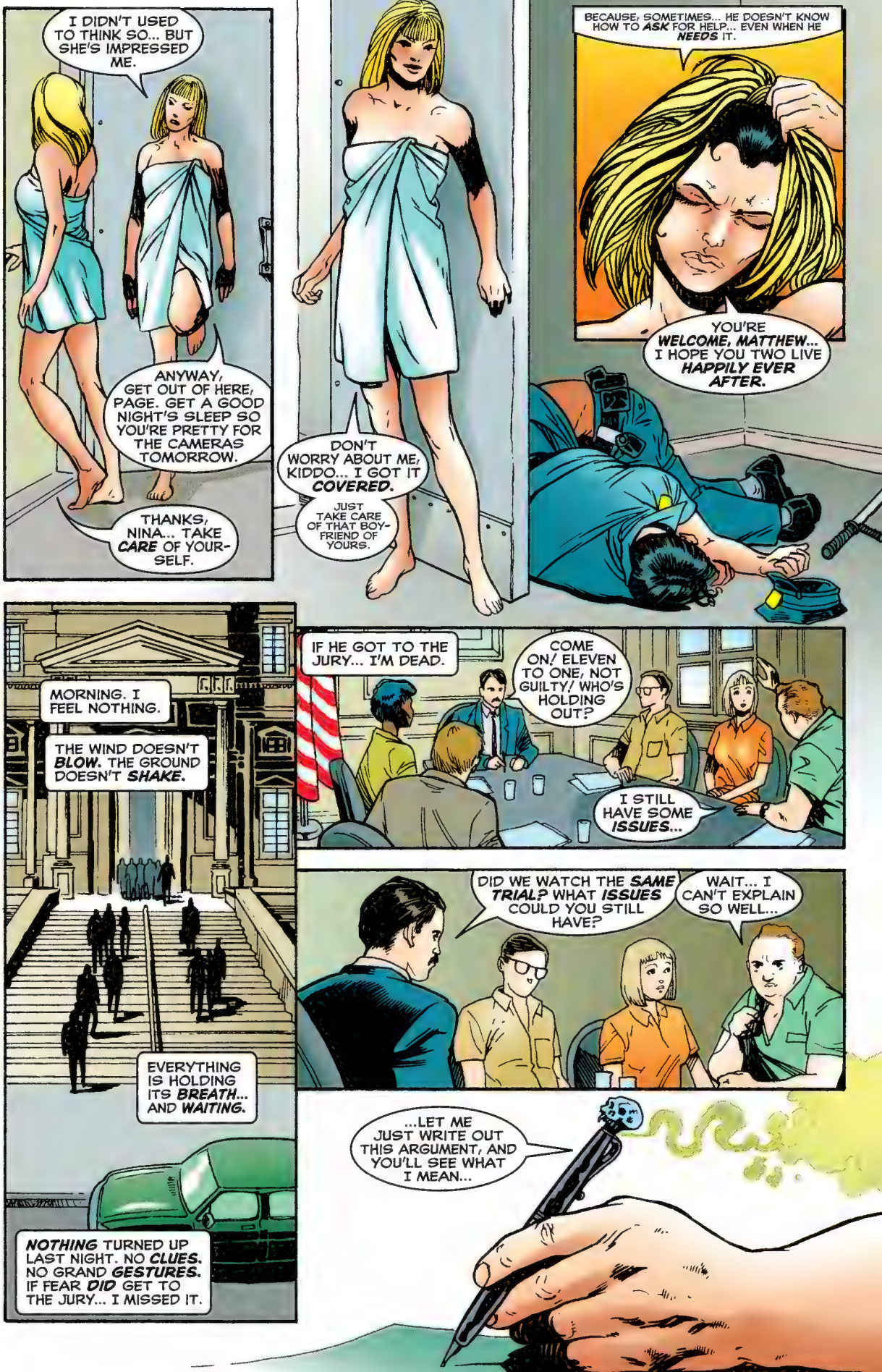

WELL, COUNSELOR? IS THE DEFENSE READY TO REST ITS CASE?
NOT EXACTLY, Um, Mr. MURDOCK IS JUST WRESTLING UP A LAST MINUTE AFFIDAVIT OR TWO --
NO, WHAT HE'S DOING IS TREADING TEN SECONDS AWAY FROM A CONTEMPT-OF-COURT CHARGE --

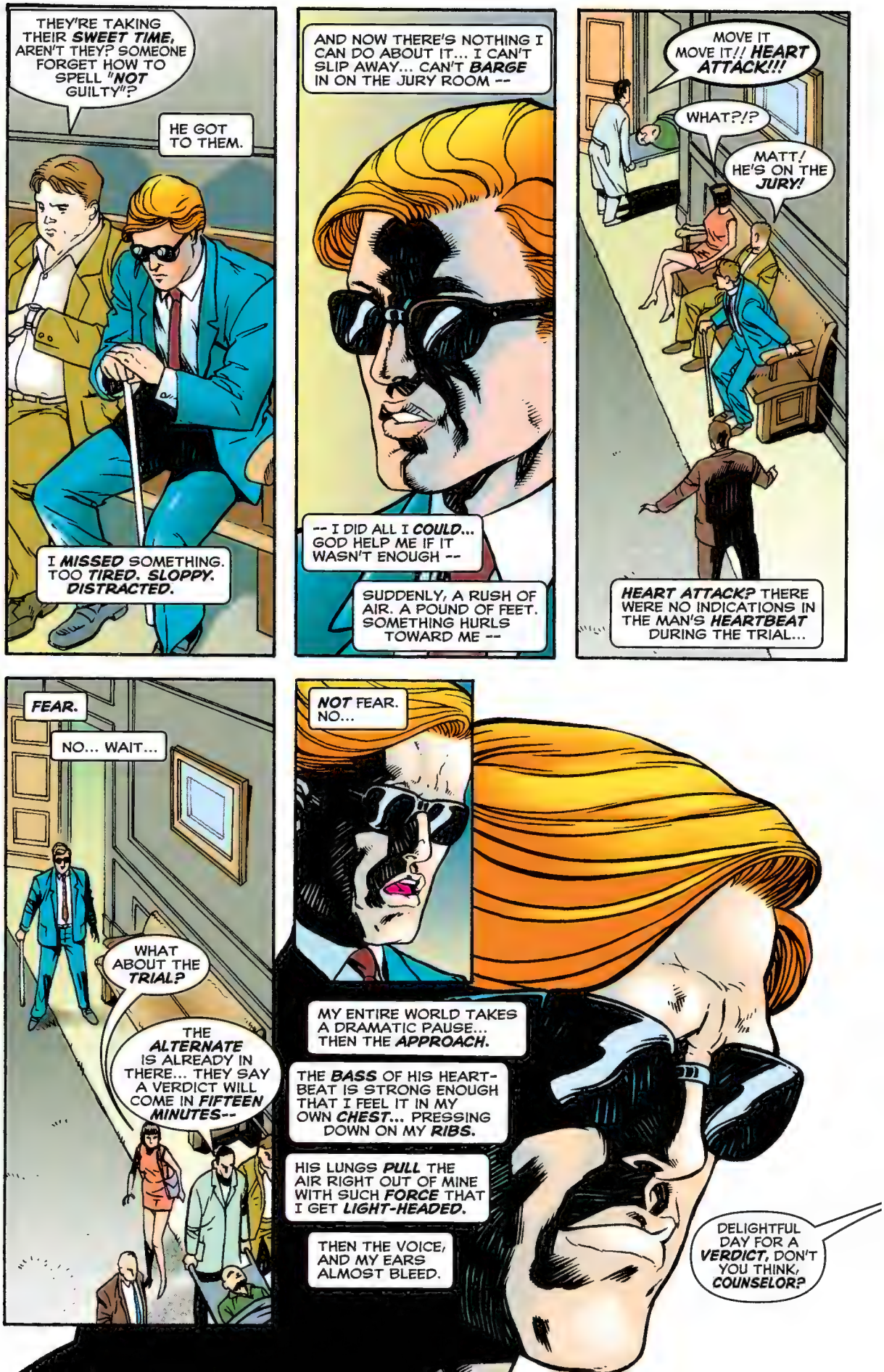

YOUR HONOR! WAIT!
MY APOLOGIES, YOUR HONOR -- FEEL FREE TO FINE ME TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT --
-- AS LONG AS YOU ALLOW THE DEFENSE TO SUBMIT EVIDENCE THAT CLEARLY EXONERATES MY CLIENT!
THE JOURNAL OF THE RECENTLY DECEASED JUDGE CHALMER -- OFFICER BOROUGHS' ILLEGITIMATE FATHER!
HIS WHAT?!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL, MURDOCK? THIS IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE!
YOUR HONOR, I BEG THE COURT'S INDULGENCE. I JUST OBTAINED THIS MATERIAL LAST NIGHT, AND WE'VE BEEN SCRAMBLING TO HAVE IT VERIFIED.
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO FIND A GOOD HANDWRITING ANALYST AT THREE THIRTY IN THE MORNING.
IT'S TRUE, YOUR HONOR, I'VE BEEN COMPARING THE JOURNAL TO THE JUDGE'S NOTES FOR AUTHENTICITY.
THE BOOK IS HIS... AND QUITE TELLING.
THIS IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL... AND HOPEFULLY RELEVANT --
I OBJECT! HOW CAN WE ENTERTAIN THIS FANTASY --?
YOUR HONOR, THE JOURNAL NOT ONLY IDENTIFIES CHARLES BOROUGHS AS THE SADISTIC "TRIPLE THREAT" KILLER --
-- BUT IMPLICATES AS YET UNHEARD WITNESSES IN A CONSPIRACY AGAINST MY CLIENT, ENGINEERED BY Mr. FEAR!
AS TO THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE JOURNAL, I'M CERTAIN Mr. TOWER WOULDN'T DISPUTE THE WORK OF Dr. MOLLE...
...ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THAT HE IS THE STATE'S OWN EXPERT ON HANDWRITING ANALYSIS. HIS OFFICE IS DOWN THE HALL --
I KNOW WHERE HIS OFFICE IS... THANK YOU, COUNSELOR.
I GUESS WITNESSES CAN TESTIFY FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE, Eh, PROFESSOR?
BE QUIET, YOU IGNORANT SOW.
WHAT?

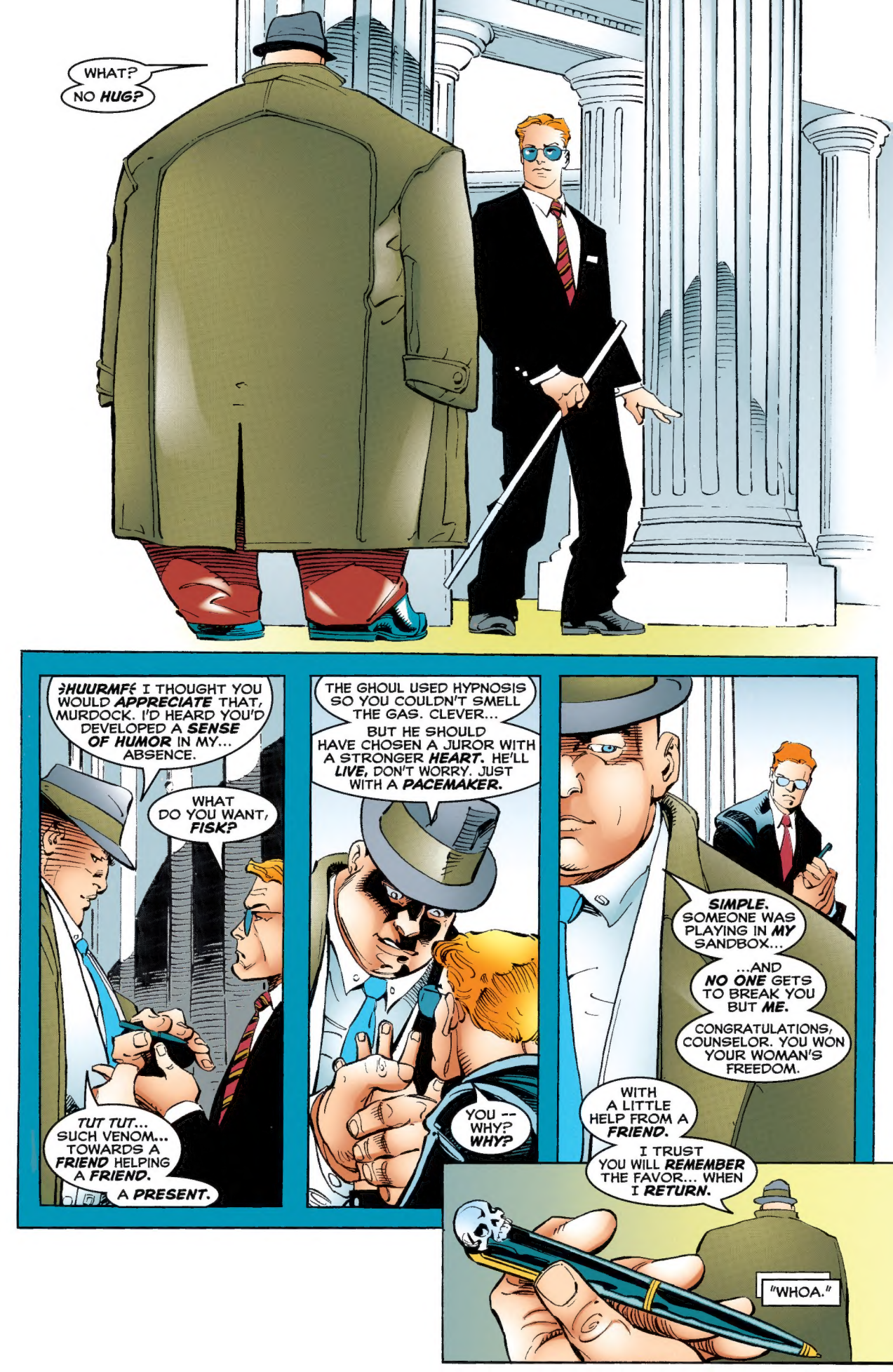

...CLEARLY, AND IN THE JUDGE'S HANDWRITING, "FORGIVE ME, LORD, BUT MY SON IS AN ABOMINATION. CHARLES IS A MURDERER, AN ANIMAL...
"...BUT I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO PUNISH HIM IN A PUBLIC FORUM, AND EXPOSE MY OWN TRESPASSES.
"...I WILL BURY HIM IN THE SYSTEM, BEHIND THE BLUE WALL OF SILENCE. HE WAS A COP AND HIS 'BROTHERS' WILL BE HAPPY TO OBLIGE, AS LONG AS I DON'T TELL THEM ALL THE DETAILS...
"THE UNTHINKABLE HAS HAPPENED...CHARLES IS BACK, AND HE BROUGHT THE DEVIL WITH HIM.
"THERE WAS A RIOT... A RIOT FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF BREAKING CHARLES OUT OF JAIL... ENGINEERED BY A GHOUL CALLED Mr. FEAR."
...GOD HELP ME... HE THREATENED TO DO THINGS TO MY KIDS IF I DIDN'T KEEP BOROUGHS ON THE I.A.D. ROSTER...
...I'M RUINED, BUT I DON'T CARE. FEAR HAS NO HOLD ON ME NOW.
"...ALL OF IT, BY Mr. FEAR, IN ORDER TO PERPETRATE SOME HORRIBLE VENDETTA AGAINST A RADIO DISC JOCKEY THAT HE NEVER EXPLAINED..."
I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING! DO YOU HEAR ME OUT THERE, FEAR?! I'M NOT POINTING FINGERS!
GIMME THE FIFTH!
AS I SAID BEFORE, TOWER... THE JUDGE IMPLICATED CHARLES BOROUGHS... HIS SON... IN A CONSPIRACY WITH Mr. FEAR --
-- TO DESTROY Ms. PAGE. CASE CLOSED.
YOU'VE HEARD THE NAME AGAIN AND AGAIN. Mr. FEAR, MANIPULATOR. Mr. FEAR, DEMON...
THIS MAN CAN BEND MINDS. HE CAN INFLUENCE JUDGES... HE CAN MAKE THE WORLD SPIN IN REVERSE...
...AND HE MOST CERTAINLY HAD THE POWER TO FRAME MY CLIENT.

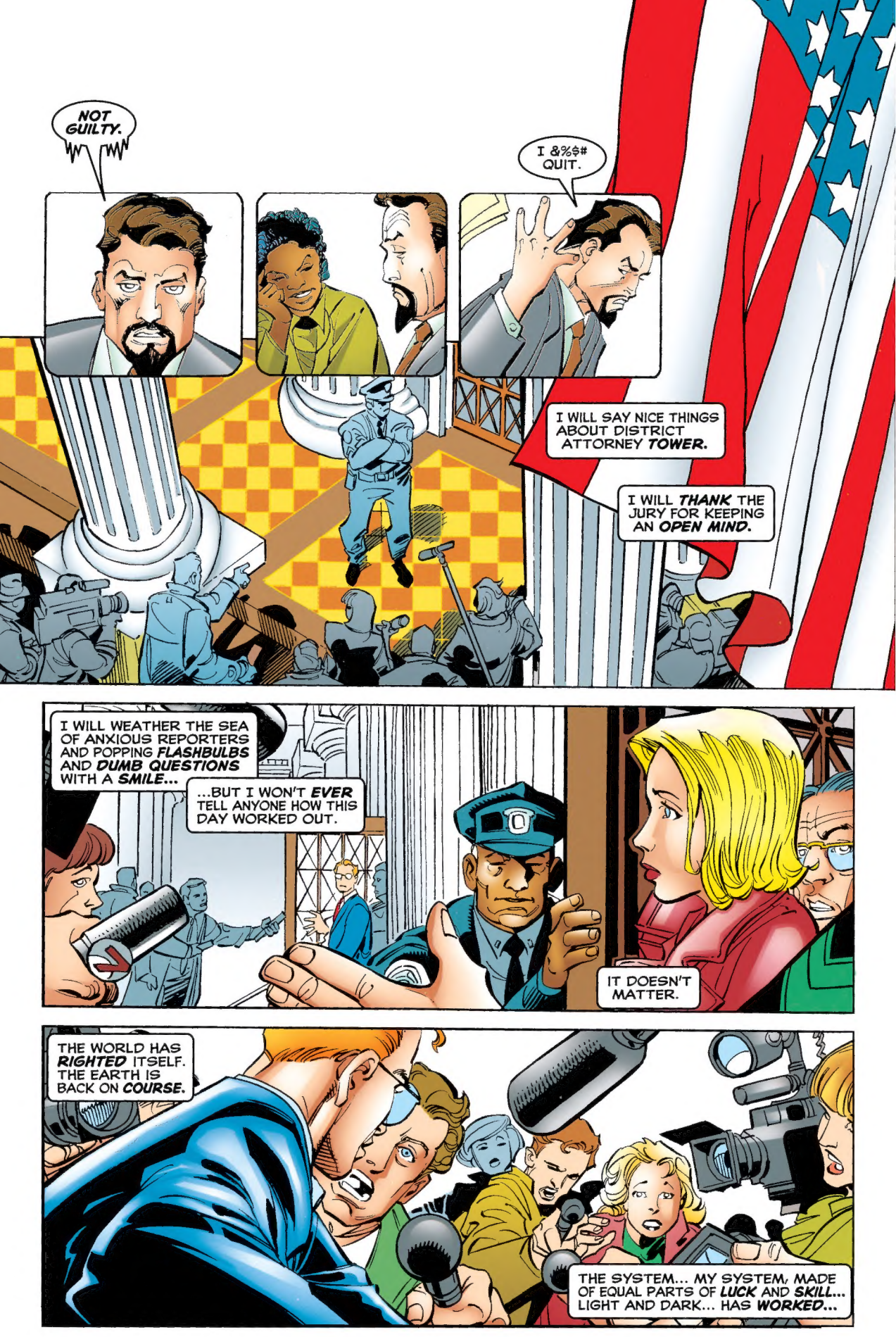

PAUSE, AGAIN... JUST TO RELISH THE WORDS IN MY MOUTH... THE WORDS I KNOW THE JURY WANTS TO HEAR.
CLEARLY, YOU MUST FIND THE DEFENDANT NOT GUILTY OF ALL CHARGES, AND SET HER FREE IMMEDIATELY.
THANK YOU.
SO, PROFESSOR, I GUESS IT'S GOING TO BE BACK TO THE CLASSROOM WITH YOU. LOOKS LIKE "MAGIC MATT MURDOCK'S" PULLED ANOTHER ONE OUT OF HIS HAT --
THE TRIAL IS NOT OVER YET, STAR.
Oh, COME ON! THIS ONE IS SHUT TIGHT --
GODS, WOMAN, YOU DO LIKE TO HEAR YOURSELF TALK...
...LAST I CHECKED, THERE WAS STILL A JURY TO DECIDE CASES... AND SOMETIMES JURIES SEE WHAT WE DO NOT.
STEIG PARK HOTEL
THE WORLD IS SLEEPING... SORT OF --
-- IT'S MORE OF A HALF-SLEEP, GRAVID AND RESTLESS WITH ANXIETY.
FEAR SAID THAT HE'D POISONED THE WELL, BUT AT NO POINT DURING THE TRIAL DID I SMELL TRACES OF HIM ON THE JURY.
WHICH MEANS IF HE'S GOING TO TRY TO INFLUENCE ANYONE, IT'S GOING TO BE TONIGHT...
...OR HE'S ALREADY DONE IT.
EITHER WAY I HAVE UNTIL MORNING TO FIGURE IT OUT... WITHOUT TAMPERING WITH THE JURY MYSELF, OF COURSE.
MY HEARTBEAT SOUNDS SO LOUD...

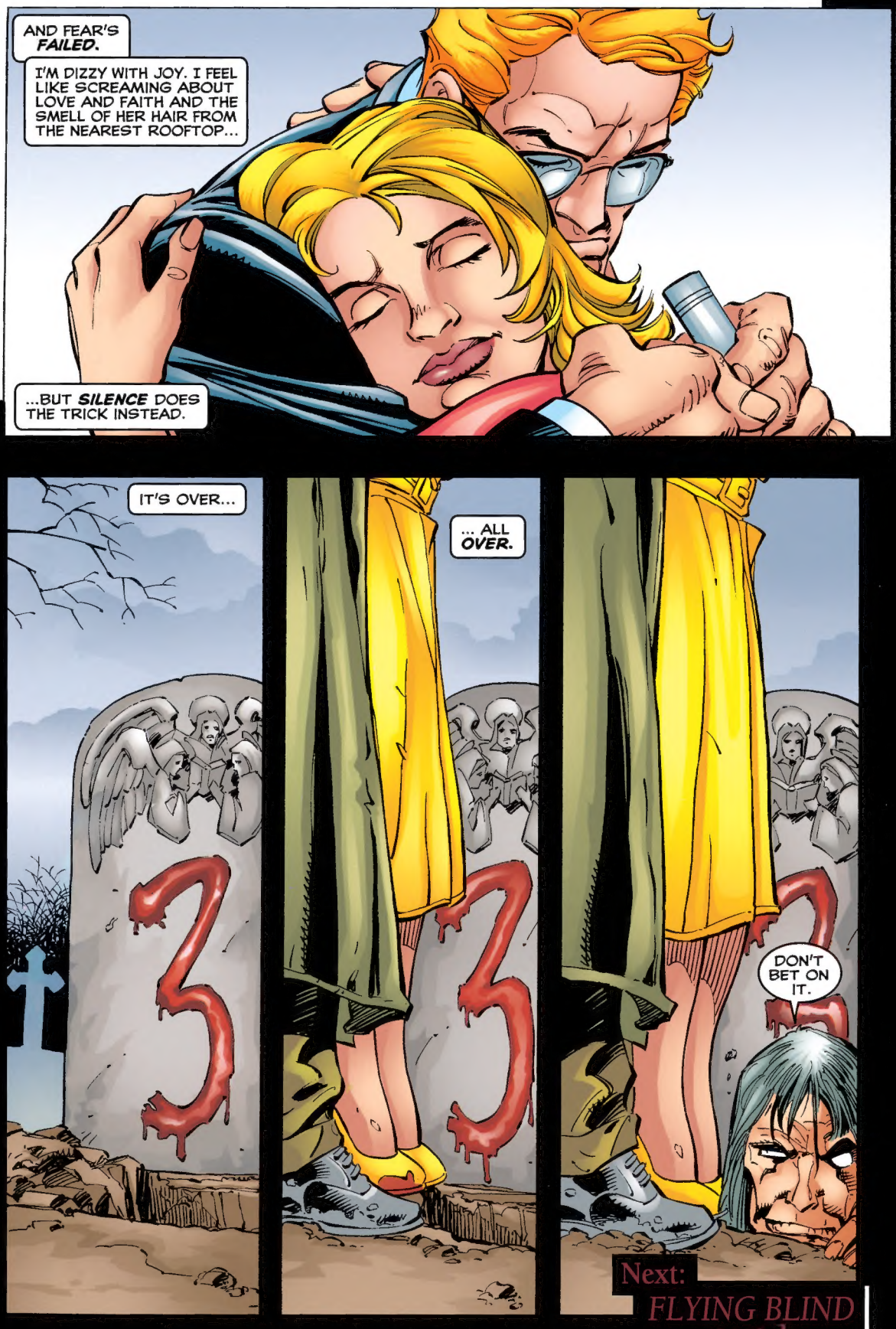

...I HOPE IT'S NERVES...
...AND NOT THE SINKING FEELING THAT FEAR WASN'T JUST MOUTHING OFF WHEN HE MENTIONED THE PRISON... AND KAREN.
FREEDOM.
FREEDOM.
FREEDOM.
ENJOY IT, PAGE... LAST TIME YOU'LL HAVE ANY FEELING IN THAT PERFECT LITTLE BODY OF YOURS...
...THE WORD CAME THROUGH... WATCH THE DOOR.
'COURSE, JUST LEAVE SOME FOR ME.
I'LL TRY.
WHA --?!
WHO'S THERE?
KRACKK
NINA? HOW DID YOU GET --
SCARE YOU? SORRY, PAGE. THEY'LL NEVER OIL THAT DOOR. MAKES A REAL RACKET.
YOU'RE OUT OF HERE TOMORROW, RIGHT?
IF THE JURY HAS EYES, THEN YES...
GOOD FOR YOU... I JUST WANTED TO SAY... IT WAS NICE... TO GET TO KNOW YOU A LITTLE.
THANKS, NINA. YOU TOO. YOU... YOU HAVE MUCH MORE TIME HERE?
NOT AT ALL, ACTUALLY. I'M FOLLOWING IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS. I'LL BE HOME WITHIN THE WEEK!
THAT'S WONDERFUL! YOU HAVE SOMEONE TO GO HOME TO?
... USED TO. BUT NOW HE'S GOT SOMEONE ELSE.
I'M SORRY --
DON'T BE... SHE'S COOL. TOUGH. HE'S BETTER OFF.


I DIDN'T USED TO THINK SO... BUT SHE'S IMPRESSED ME.
ANYWAY, GET OUT OF HERE, PAGE. GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP SO YOU'RE PRETTY FOR THE CAMERAS TOMORROW.
THANKS, NINA... TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, KIDDO... I GOT IT COVERED.
JUST TAKE CARE OF THAT BOYFRIEND OF YOURS.
BECAUSE, SOMETIMES... HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO ASK FOR HELP... EVEN WHEN HE NEEDS IT.
YOU'RE WELCOME, MATTHEW... I HOPE YOU TWO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
MORNING. I FEEL NOTHING.
THE WIND DOESN'T BLOW. THE GROUND DOESN'T SHAKE.
EVERYTHING IS HOLDING ITS BREATH... AND WAITING.
NOTHING TURNED UP LAST NIGHT. NO CLUES. NO GRAND GESTURES. IF FEAR DID GET TO THE JURY... I MISSED IT.
IF HE GOT TO THE JURY... I'M DEAD.
COME ON, ELEVEN TO ONE, NOT GUILTY, WHO'S HOLDING OUT?
I STILL HAVE SOME ISSUES...
DID WE WATCH THE SAME TRIAL? WHAT ISSUES COULD YOU STILL HAVE?
WAIT... I CAN'T EXPLAIN SO WELL...
...LET ME JUST WRITE OUT THIS ARGUMENT, AND YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN...


THEY'RE TAKING THEIR SWEET TIME, AREN'T THEY? SOMEONE FORGET HOW TO SPELL "NOT GUILTY"?
HE GOT TO THEM.
I MISSED SOMETHING. TOO TIRED. SLOPPY. DISTRACTED.
AND NOW THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT... I CAN'T SLIP AWAY... CAN'T BARGE IN ON THE JURY ROOM --
-- I DID ALL I COULD... GOD HELP ME IF IT WASN'T ENOUGH --
SUDDENLY, A RUSH OF AIR. A POUND OF FEET. SOMETHING HURLS TOWARD ME --
MOVE IT MOVE IT!! HEART ATTACK!!!
WHAT?!?
MATT! HE'S ON THE JURY!
HEART ATTACK? THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS IN THE MAN'S HEARTBEAT DURING THE TRIAL...
FEAR.
NO... WAIT...
WHAT ABOUT THE TRIAL?
THE ALTERNATE IS ALREADY IN THERE... THEY SAY A VERDICT WILL COME IN FIFTEEN MINUTES--
NOT FEAR. NO...
MY ENTIRE WORLD TAKES A DRAMATIC PAUSE... THEN THE APPROACH.
THE BASS OF HIS HEARTBEAT IS STRONG ENOUGH THAT I FEEL IT IN MY OWN CHEST... PRESSING DOWN ON MY RIBS.
HIS LUNGS PULL THE AIR RIGHT OUT OF MINE WITH SUCH FORCE THAT I GET LIGHT-HEADED.
THEN THE VOICE, AND MY EARS ALMOST BLEED.
DELIGHTFUL DAY FOR A VERDICT, DON'T YOU THINK, COUNSELOR?


WHAT? NO HUG?
HUURMF! I THOUGHT YOU WOULD APPRECIATE THAT, MURDOCK. I'D HEARD YOU'D DEVELOPED A SENSE OF HUMOR IN MY... ABSENCE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, FISK?
TUT TUT... SUCH VENOM... TOWARDS A FRIEND HELPING A FRIEND.
A PRESENT.
THE GHOUL USED HYPNOSIS SO YOU COULDN'T SMELL THE GAS. CLEVER...
BUT HE SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN A JUROR WITH A STRONGER HEART. HE'LL LIVE, DON'T WORRY. JUST WITH A PACEMAKER.
YOU -- WHY? WHY?
SIMPLE. SOMEONE WAS PLAYING IN MY SANDBOX...
...AND NO ONE GETS TO BREAK YOU BUT ME.
CONGRATULATIONS, COUNSELOR. YOU WON YOUR WOMAN'S FREEDOM.
WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM A FRIEND.
I TRUST YOU WILL REMEMBER THE FAVOR... WHEN I RETURN.
"WHOA."


NOT GUILTY.
I &%$# QUIT.
I WILL SAY NICE THINGS ABOUT DISTRICT ATTORNEY TOWER.
I WILL THANK THE JURY FOR KEEPING AN OPEN MIND.
I WILL WEATHER THE SEA OF ANXIOUS REPORTERS AND POPPING FLASHBULBS AND DUMB QUESTIONS WITH A SMILE...
...BUT I WON'T EVER TELL ANYONE HOW THIS DAY WORKED OUT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
THE WORLD HAS RIGHTED ITSELF. THE EARTH IS BACK ON COURSE.
THE SYSTEM... MY SYSTEM, MADE OF EQUAL PARTS OF LUCK AND SKILL... LIGHT AND DARK... HAS WORKED...


AND FEAR'S *FAILED*.
I'M DIZZY WITH JOY. I FEEL LIKE SCREAMING ABOUT LOVE AND FAITH AND THE SMELL OF HER HAIR FROM THE NEAREST ROOFTOP...
...BUT *SILENCE* DOES THE TRICK INSTEAD.
IT'S OVER...
... ALL *OVER*.
DON'T BET ON IT.
Next:
FLYING BLIND
part 1

BONUS:
PREVIOUSLY UNSEEN COVER ART FOR
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
#368!
LEONARDI + LaROSA